Saturday, September 20, 2025 No 261 ₹8

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P10

DH on Saturday

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US Prez bid to reduce their use as part of immigration crackdown

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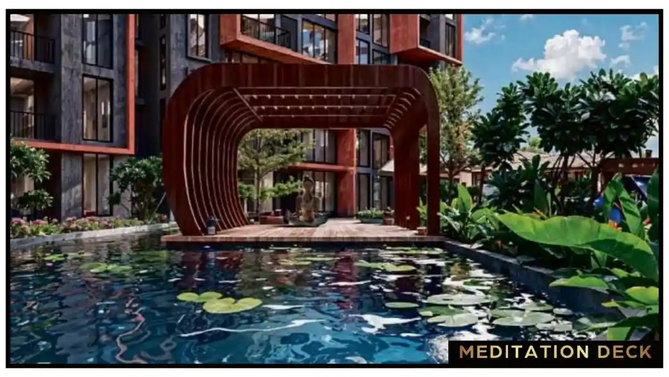
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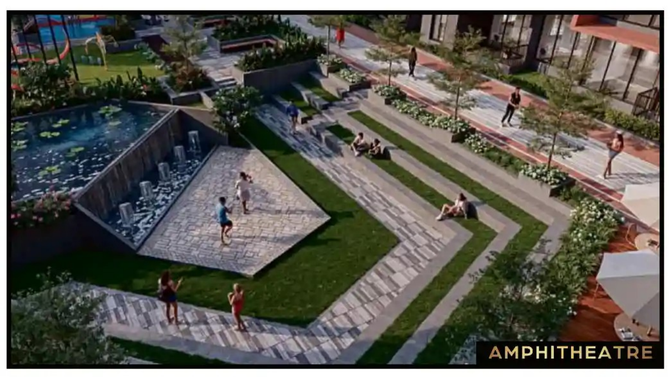
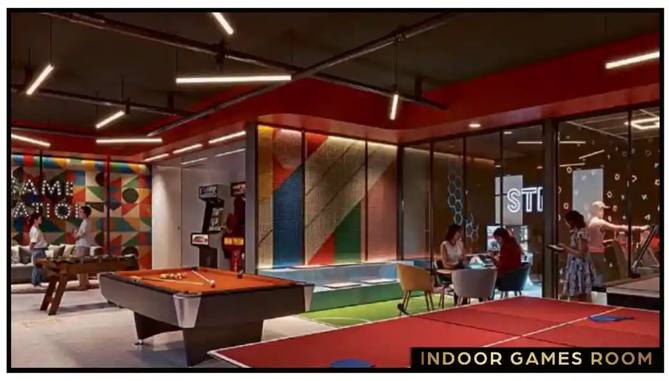
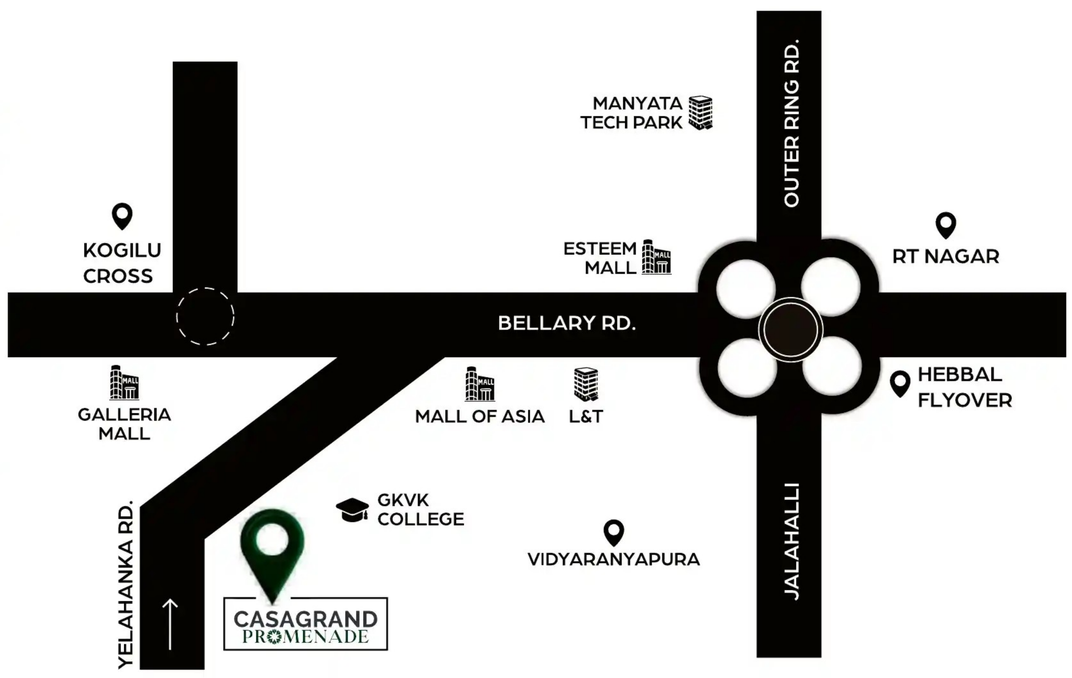

AMPHITHEATRE

AERIAL VIEW


INDOOR GAMES ROOM

Location Route Map



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Bengaluru Saturday, September 20, 2025 Pages 32 Vol 78 No 261 ₹8

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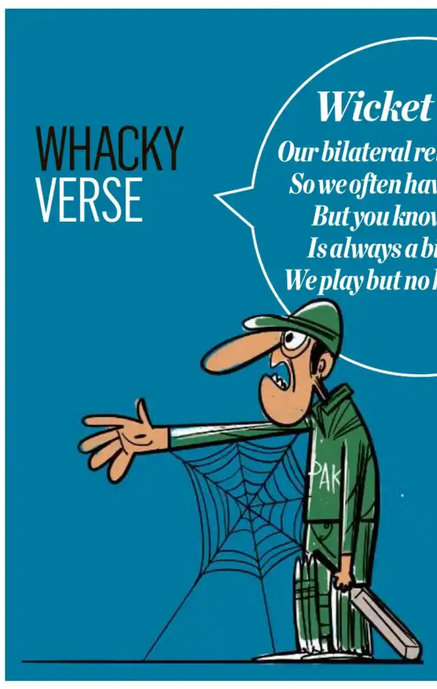

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Singer Zubeen dies while scuba diving

Assam star was on yacht trip in Singapore

P8

CM firm, caste survey set to begin on Monday

Certain caste names to be masked, not removed; whatever citizens mention will be noted

BENGALURU, DHNS

A day after the Cabinet saw divisions on the Social and Educational Survey (caste census), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday ruled out any postponement, adding that the exercise would start as scheduled from September 22.

Siddaramaiah told reporters: "BJP is politicising this issue and alleging that Congress is anti-Hindu. We have directed all ministers to condemn this."

Speaking elsewhere, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar also slammed the BJP for spreading "false information" on the issue.

During the day, the Backward Classes Commission headed by Madhusudan R Naik held detailed discussions about various issues, including the controversy over certain Christian groups having suffixes or prefixes of Hindu caste groups (Ediga Christian, Kuruba Christian, Lingayat Christian and so on).

Speaking to DH, Naik said: "The list of castes in the handbook is not for public information, it is to help our enumerators get the list of castes in the drop down as per the alphabetical order. It is not a list of castes, and doesn't have any legal sanctity."

"No caste will be removed from the enumerator's list, but the caste names being disputed (Christian groups with suffixes/prefixes of Hindu castes) will be masked in the app. We won't prompt anyone to enumerate that way. However, a citizen is free to enumerate the way he/she wants, and we will have to note it down that way."

Essentially, the app will not show these options, but the person's choice is final. After questions on religion, caste and sub-caste, there is a question: 'Is there any other name your caste is known by?' Here, a person will be free to enumerate it as he deems fit, and the enumerator will have to note it down.

Both Siddaramaiah and Naik clarified that the Backward Classes Commission was a statutory body, and that the government could only suggest and not direct it on any of its actions.

▸ Caste survey, Page 5A

BJP: Declare religion as Hindu

Taking a strong stand on religious identity, the BJP's two-day 'Chintan Shibira' (brainstorming camp) concluded on Friday with a resolution urging all communities in the state to declare their religion as 'Hindu' in the upcoming Social and Educational Survey.

Details on Page 5A

Muslims told to identify as caste

Top Muslim leaders have decided that their community members must identify themselves as a 'Muslim' caste under the religion of 'Islam' during the Social & Educational Survey starting September 22. This was decided at a meeting chaired by Minority Welfare Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan held late Thursday night.

Details on Page 5A

HC notice to govt on petitions against caste census

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Friday ordered notice to the state government in a batch of PILs challenging the Social and Educational Survey (caste census) commencing on September 22.

The petitioners contended that the survey amounted to a caste census which falls exclusively within the domain of the Union government under Entry 69, List I, of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

A division bench of Justices Anu Sivaraman and Rajesh Rai K directed the matter to be listed on Monday. It also ordered notices to the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission and the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.

The petitions were filed by the Rajya Vokkaliga Sangha, Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha, members of the Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha and by certain individuals, including KN Subba Reddy, former president of the Advocates Association of Bengaluru, and members belonging to different OBC castes.

On August 13, the state government had issued an order to conduct a digital survey of citizens through the e-governance department. In the subsequent order, it was stated that the survey will be conducted through a digital app. The survey is scheduled to commence on September 22 and conclude on October 7.

▸ HC notice, Page 5A

N-capability will be available under Saudi deal: Pak

India asks Riyadh to keep in mind 'mutual sensitivities'

DUBAI/ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI, AGENCIES

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif said his nation's nuclear programme "will be made available" to Saudi Arabia if needed under the countries' new defence pact, marking the first specific acknowledgment that Islamabad had put the kingdom under its nuclear umbrella.

Reacting to the deal, India said it expects Saudi Arabia to keep in mind "mutual interests and sensitivities" in the wake of Riyadh sealing a strategic defence pact with Pakistan.

"India and Saudi Arabia have a wide-ranging strategic partnership that has deepened considerably in the last few years," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

The deal was signed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during the Pakistani leader's visit to the Gulf Kingdom. The deal comes days after an Israeli attack on the Hamas leadership in Qatar.

Speaking to Geo TV in an interview late Thursday night, Asif made the comments while answering a question on whether "the deterrence that Pakistan gets from nuclear weapons" will be made available to Saudi Arabia.

GEOPOLITICAL MOVES

- Pak says entry of other Arab countries in defence deal with Saudi Arabia is not ruled out
- Says it is not an "aggressive pact" but a defensive arrangement, similar to NATO
- Islamabad also says pact is not against a third country

> What we have, and the capabilities we possess, will be made available to (Saudi Arabia) according to this agreement
>
> **- KHAWAJA MOHAMMAD ASIF,** Pakistan Defence Minister

▸ Saudi deal, Page 5A

Enduring legacy of Mysuru Dasara

An account of the origins and evolution of the iconic festival

Dasara is Mysuru's busiest and brightest time of year. Spanning 10 or 11 days, the spectacle draws both Indian and international tourists, apart from residents of Mysuru. This year, the celebration will feature 15 events, centred on food, music, films, and folk art forms. An air show and a flower display are also planned. It all culminates in the iconic finale: a royal procession where decorated elephants carry the golden howdah in the afternoon. Later in the day, spectators will be treated to a torchlight parade.

The SATURDAY STORY

While Dasara is celebrated across India in many forms, Mysuru's version has earned global stature. In this week's Saturday Story, a *DH* journalist traces its rich and long history. Experts link its origins to the Hoysala and Vijayanagara empires, before the Mysore Maharajas transformed it into a symbol of the state's progress and cultural heritage. Over time, it has become bigger, at times drawing criticism for straying from its roots.

The journalist also shares personal memories of attending it as a child, and now, passing on those stories to his son.

Full story, Page 13

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KORAMANGALA | MANGALURU • MYSURU • HUBBALLI • SHIVAMOGGA • BELAGAVI • UDUPI
HASSAN • DAVANAGERE • KALABURAGI
INDIA • USA • UK • UAE • KSA • QATAR • BAHRAIN • KUWAIT • OMAN • SINGAPORE • MALAYSIA

Setback to Manipur peace as 2 Assam Rifles personnel killed

GUWAHATI, DHNS: In what is being seen as a setback to peace efforts in strife-torn Manipur, two Assam Rifles personnel were killed and five others injured in an ambush by unidentified insurgents in Meitei-dominated Bishnupur district on Friday.

This was the first attack on security forces in Manipur in the past one year and comes amid efforts to restore "free movement" on the highways.

An army spokesperson said the incident took place at around 5.50 pm when a vehicle carrying troops of 33 Assam Rifles unit was ambushed in the Nambol Sabal Leikai area on NH-2.

"In the ensuing action, two personnel of Assam Rifles were martyred and five were injured. The injured were evacuated to RIMS hospital in Imphal. As of now, no group has claimed responsibility," said the statement.

Banu set to open Dasara as SC junks plea

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a plea challenging the Karnataka High Court's decision upholding the state government's invite to Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq as chief guest for the upcoming Mysuru Dasara.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta declined to consider the plea filed by Bengaluru resident H S Gaurav against the high court's judgment, saying it is a state event and the state can't distinguish between A, B and C.

"What is the purpose of filing this plea," the bench asked senior advocate P B Suresh, appearing for H S Gaurav.

He said it affected his rights under Article 25 of the Constitution.

The court questioned the counsel as to what the Preamble of the Constitution is.

He said it is secular but the religious activities cannot be interfered with.

The bench dismissed the petition, saying, "This is a state programme...how can state distinguish between A, B And C?"

The counsel contended that the right under Article 25 of the Constitution would be violated as the programme not just comprised of inauguration but performing puja as well.

He submitted that the puja in the temple was not a secular activity. It is part of the ceremony. There was no reason why they should be brought inside the temple.

The counsel sought to highlight statements made by Banu Mushtaq, which he claimed was against the religion. "You can't invite such people, inauguration was not a problem. See what she has said," the senior advocate said.

The court rejected the plea, pointing out, in 2017 too, Kannada writer Nisar Ahmed inaugurated the festival.

"We know the intention behind the petition," the bench said.

K'taka may form SIT to probe Aland 'voter deletion' bids

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government is likely to constitute an SIT to probe the alleged unauthorised attempts to delete names from the voters' list in Aland ahead of the 2023 Assembly polls.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had accused the Chief Election Commissioner of refusing to share necessary information to help nab the culprits in the case.

Details on Page 4

Japan agency upgrades India's sovereign credit rating

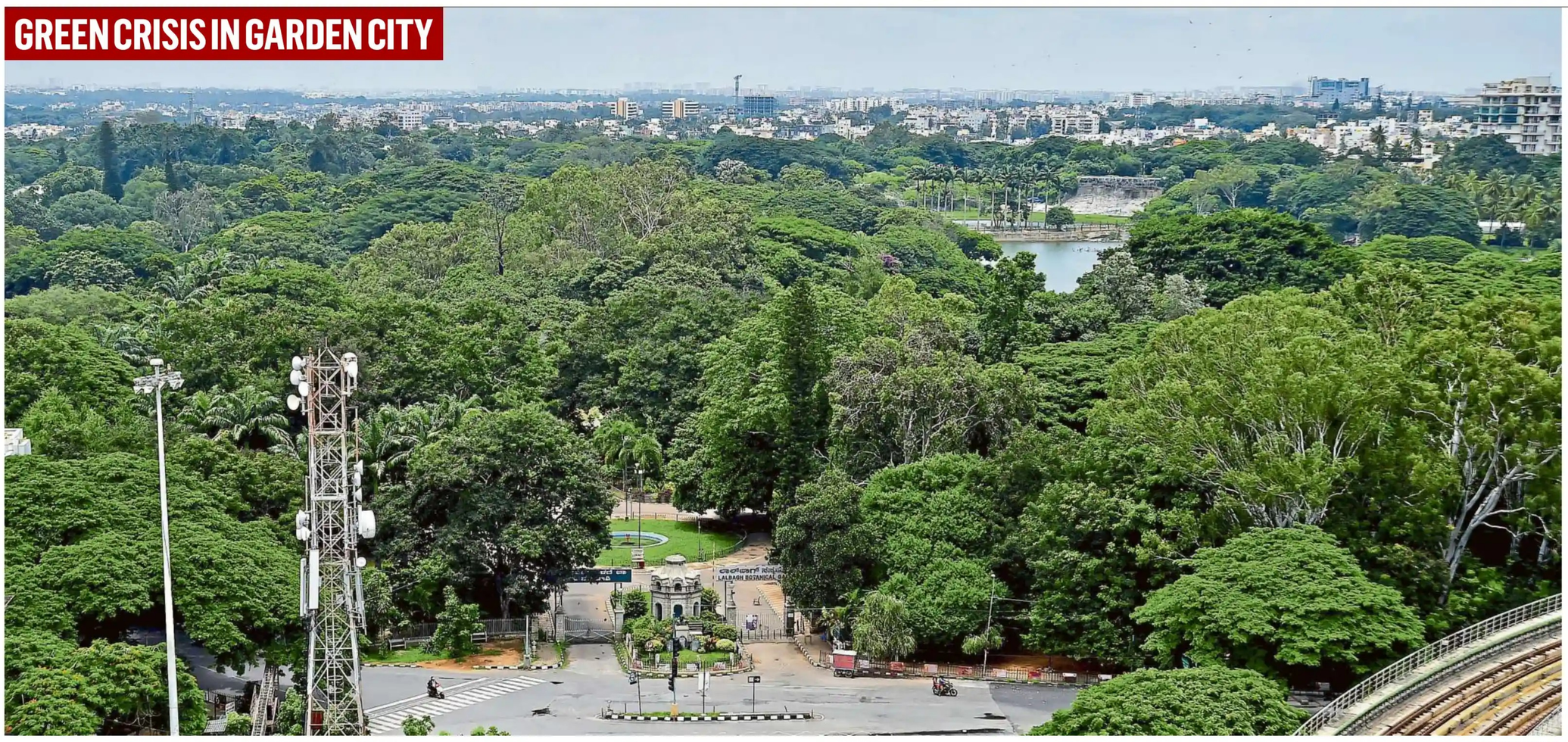
NEW DELHI, DHNS: India has secured its third sovereign credit rating upgrade this fiscal with Japan's Rating and Investment Information Inc (R&I) on Friday raising the country's "currency issuer rating" from BBB to BBB+.

This comes nearly a month after New York-headquartered S&P Global upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-'.

Details on Page 11

Next-Gen GST
Better & Simpler
APPAREL, FOOTWEAR & PERSONAL CARE
NOW EASY ON MY POCKET
GST SAVINGS
LIFESTYLE AND SAVINGS TOGETHER
APPAREL UP TO ₹2,500 TO BE CHEAPER
FOOTWEAR UP TO ₹2,500 TO SEE A PRICE DROP
SHAMPOO & HAIR OIL TO BE CHEAPER
GYM & SALON SERVICES WILL ALSO GET CHEAPER
भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT
CBC 15502/13/0018/2526

GREEN CRISIS IN GARDEN CITY



DH FILE PHOTO

Preserving biodiversity: City lacks a solid plan

The city has no valid master plan, and no official, documented list of flora and fauna. What is the plan to protect the city's biodiversity?

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

The award of a biodiversity heritage tag to the railway land in Bengaluru's Cantonment area has brought back the issue of human-nature conflict in the city. While the land in question might be protected from new constructions, the garden city is struggling to protect its other existing green spaces.

Many questions remain: How much biodiversity remains in the city, burgeoning with humans and vehicles, who has to preserve biodiversity and what is happening on the ground level.

The management of biodiversity in the city is divided among three bodies: the Karnataka Forest Department, the Karnataka Biodiversity Board, and the local municipality (BBMP until now, and the five municipalities thereafter).

The mandate to have a local biodiversity management committee under every municipality resulted in Bengaluru having such a committee in 2020. This Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) functioned under the BBMP, with the chief of the BBMP forest cell acting as the nodal officer.

The committee had experts, including biologists, ecologists, environmentalists, and local government officials, who collaborate to identify, protect, and restore natural habitats, species, and ecosystems.

The BMC collaborated with communities and NGOs to raise awareness and promote sustainable practices that help to preserve biodiversity. The campaign to award biodiversity heritage status to the railway land in the Cantonment area was spearheaded by the citizen groups, with active support from BMC, says Vijay Nishanth, a member of the Bengaluru BMC. The last meeting of this committee was held on 25 August, just before the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) came into existence and the BBMP was divided. While the decisions taken so far will remain effective, the committee is no longer valid after this administrative change, as BBMP no longer exists.

Now each municipality has to form its own board, says Sudarshan Reddy, the BBMP Deputy Conservator of Forests and was a nodal officer to the BMC until now.

What biodiversity does the city have?

There is no accurate, complete documentation of biodiversity in the city done by the government as of now.

The City Biodiversity Index, released in 2024 by Bengaluru Sustainability Forum, offers clues. It lists 389 bird species, of which 231 are native. It listed 604 types of flowering trees, out of which only 309 are native, and 26 were identified as invasive species. The rest were categorised as "introduced" species.

The biodiversity index report shows that Bengaluru has 14.78% of tree cover, including Cubbon Park, Lal Bagh and some reserve forests.

"Most of the remnant green spaces in the city are inaccessible or only partially accessible, walled up in institutional areas like university campuses, military and defence establishments. The green spaces in some of these areas are poor in diversity," the report observes.

The report suggests planting healthy avenue trees, not limited to ornamental species. "Planting can be augmented with native species that also have broad canopies, such as Ficus sp., Azadirachta indica, Mimusops elengi, Holoptelea integrifolia, Terminalia arjuna and so on. Neighbourhoods and colonies should also be targeted for planting of native species, especially at the park level," it adds.

It observes the lack of canopy cover in comparison to the built-up area in many parts of the city, such as Krishnarajapuram, Kalyan Nagar, Hebbal, Banasawadi, Banashankari, Kothnur and Haralur, and suggests greening activities.

Almost every time, the lack of willpower from the government results in projects being junked or gathering dust. For example, in 2022, the Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) identified 12 firefly hotspots in the city. It also proposed a firefly park in Bengaluru to be implemented in two years, funded by the government.

Three years later, no firefly park has taken shape yet. "It is being planned in the Bannerghatta zoo campus. It will take two more years, as funds have not come through," Says A K Chakravarthy, principal researcher with EMPRI.

'Birds stressed by heat'

Obviously, extreme urbanisation has taken a toll on the city's ecology. Various organisations have documented the loss of tree cover, but there is a lack of focus on urban wildlife. Even the tree plantation activity is human-centric, thereby leading to insufficient planting of fruiting trees that nurture wildlife, birds, and insects.

A study by researchers in the Indian Institute of Human Settlements, titled 'Effects of heat stress and green cover on urban birds in the megacity of Bengaluru', mapped heat islands, cooling potential, and the bird diversity of green spaces in Bengaluru to identify areas of conservation value that also help mitigate heat stress for citizens.

It showed that all bird species they analysed avoided hotter areas in the city. The bird diversity was found to be the highest in cooler and greener parts of the city, which overlapped with major campuses, parks, and forest patches.

Some declining bird species in India (like house sparrow, common kestrel, sirkeer malkoha, and Egyptian vulture) were still present in Bengaluru, mainly in large green spaces. Distribution patterns differed even among closely related species. For example, jungle myna favoured greener areas, while common myna thrived in urbanised zones.

The study revealed distinct patterns among birds of prey. Kestrels and black-shouldered kites preferred city outskirts with open spaces. Shikra adapted well to city centres by preying on small urban species. Scavenger kites such as the black kite and the Brahminy kite thrived in central areas due to anthropogenic food sources.

'Master plan needed'

The study identified approximately 60 km² of Bengaluru's urban area as having strong conservation potential, as it supported bird diversity while also offering cooling benefits to humans.

The only solution is to increase greenery in the city, which is difficult because the idea of green and open spaces is always at loggerheads with human-centric and commercial interests. More vehicles, more people, and a growing need for housing—all translate into a requirement for additional space.

Thus, the heat island effect in the city can adversely affect biodiversity. Dattatreya T Devare, a trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust, says that the city not having a master plan is a big problem in enforcing the rules for parks, greenery and open spaces. The city is in the process of developing a new master plan, while older ones have lapsed, and the court has rejected new efforts due to procedural lapses.

"Master plan plans for both vehicles and greenery, without planned development, it is difficult to strike a balance," he says,

'Past helped, but the present is bleak'

Yashaswini Sharma, a Bengaluru-based architect, says that the city's success in supporting an increased population comes from the deliberate interventions that occurred over atleast one and a half millennia, which include rainwater harvesting via the construction of connected tank bunds and wells.

"These, in turn, supported agriculture and settlements. The Pete was designed as a mixed-use mercantile town where work, life and play were supported sustainably. The city was greened with deliberate action, turning the terrain into a garden city, further enhancing the already comforting weather," she explains.

"Today, the city is constantly losing its green cover and water bodies, in turn affecting the avian fauna and human health. We need to take a step back and diversify development beyond Bengaluru as a first step," she advocates.

She gives an example of a mindless development practice. "Most of the lake rejuvenation projects focus on beautification without due thought and process. Lake bunds are concretised, which makes the boundary impermeable, and vegetation is destroyed, turning the lake into a soup bowl. This also destroys nesting needs for migratory and native birds, and makes the area uninhabitable for smaller fauna," she explains. What needs to be changed? "All buildings need not be high rises. Smaller residences can be built using traditional architecture, which is healthier and cooler," she adds.

"The construction methodology must be suitable and tailored to the local geology and climate. Herein, traditional building methods with regional variations can offer solutions. A one-size-fits-all approach can be catastrophic," she warns.

Feedback:
pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

Green spaces in Bengaluru (in hectares)

2,693.00 Open scrub	2,286.42 Natural vegetation	2,282.30 Lake	2,243.79 Institutional green cover
2,171.81 Mixed cultivation	1,599.25 Marshes	1,223.12 Paddy/vegetable cultivation	977.49 Open green space
804.06 Open ground	675.27 Sparse vegetation	363.43 River	210.89 Riverine vegetation

Total 17,815.49

List of protected areas in GBA limits

Forest	Area	
	Acre	Gunta
Jarakabande Sandal Reserve	444	12
Govindapura plantation	48	-
Kallupalya SF	107	25
Madappanahalli plantation	153	39
Jarakabande A-Block	371	-
Jarakabande B-Block	123	-
Peenya & Jalahalli Plantation	599	-
Machohalli	145	12
Turahalli MF	597	19
Turahalli SF	514	29
BM Kaval	1,382	18
Sulikere SF	525	2
Basavanatara	1,417	-
Kenchenahalli	77	-
Nagarabhavi Extension Plantation	234	1
Nagarabhavi Plantation	250	-
Doresanipalaya Lac Reserve	137	3
Uttarahalli Manavarthe Kaval	167	15
Marasandra	855	10
Yelahanka Kodigehalli	353	-
Yelahanka Bettahalli-A	304	-
Yelahanka Bettahalli-B	48	-
Kaggalipura Sunkadakatte	218	13
Kaggalipura Chinnakurchi	245	15
Kaggalipura Nettigere	225	15
Total	**9,543**	**7**

METRO

Drunk bus driver in viral video not our staff: BMTC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) stated on Thursday that a viral video that claimed to show one of its bus drivers causing a ruckus while fully drunk was actually from Mandya.

The video, widely shared on social media, was picked up by some news channels, too.

An investigation by the BMTC's security and vigilance department showed that the person seen in the video was not its employee and that the said incident took place at the Mandya bus stand.

"Linking the BMTC's name to an incident that has no connection with the corporation is misleading and far from the truth," it said.

It asked the public and media not to circulate such videos and immediately remove it from their social media accounts.

Awareness programme stresses early intervention, treatment of sepsis

Intensivists push for early antibiotics use & swift source control to improve survival rates

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A group of interventionists has organised an awareness programme at Victoria Hospital to promote early intervention and timely treatment for sepsis.

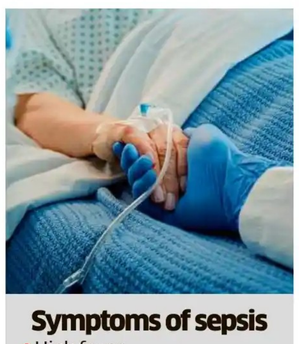
Sepsis, a life-threatening condition, is among the leading causes of ICU deaths linked to heart attacks and other critical illnesses, the World Health Organisation (WHO) states.

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) specialists are pushing for greater awareness, early use of antibiotics, and swift source control to improve survival rates.

Intensivist Dr Pooja Murthy told *DH*: "If sepsis goes undiagnosed because of a pus pocket, it has to be drained within 12 hours. The longer it takes, the lower will be the survival rate. Early identification remains the key."

Persons with diabetes, especially the uncontrolled type, the elderly, infants, those with suppressed immunity, and people with chronic illnesses are most vulnerable to sepsis.

"Wounds on the feet of diabetics do not heal and it is better to be treated as it would lead to infection causing sepsis," said Dr Rajavardhan, intensivist.



Symptoms of sepsis
- High fever
- Rapid heartbeat
- Low blood pressure
- Confusion or disorientation

Causes of sepsis

Pneumonia, urinary tract infections, or untreated skin wounds can cause sepsis when ignored. Secondary infections often occur in hospitals due to frequent visits by extended families.

"It is important for the well-being of patients to limit visitations," Dr Rajavardhan added.

Victoria Hospital sees about 250 ICU admissions every month, of which 60%–70% are cases of sepsis, officials said.

High cost a deterrent

Treatment for sepsis poses a heavy financial burden as it requires ICU care.

"The treatment is not very affordable as ventilator facilities are required in serious cases and the treatment has to be done in the ICU," said Dr Divya Dinakar, intensivist.

Untreated sepsis is extremely fatal, leading to multiple organ failure and death.

Dr Natesh, interventionist, said, "When an organ is infected, delay leads to infection entering the blood stream. It leads to infection in the blood and multiple organs and death."

Doctors also warned against indiscriminate use of over-the-counter antibiotics, which build resistance and force the use of stronger medications in higher dosages.

Govt creates surveillance panel as stillbirth rates surge

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Health and Family Welfare formed a Stillbirth Surveillance and Response committee (SBSR) on Thursday to combat rising stillbirth rates statewide.

Department data from August has shown Karnataka recorded 3.41% stillbirths per 1,000 births, which spiked to 9.8% in some districts, triggering alarm.

Haveri recorded the highest deaths, followed by Dharwad, Chamarajanagar and Mysuru. Authorities found sharp increases even in districts that previously reported minimal or zero stillbirths.

The committee will track stillbirth numbers and causes, following International Classification of Diseases for Perinatal Mortality guidelines (ICD-PM).

Hospital nodal officers must report deaths within 24 hours to district and state officials.

The panel will examine preventable deaths and use data to inspect districts with the highest cases. It will also identify treatment gaps and recommend solutions to the health department.

Failing to register deaths will result in serious charges against hospital officials, while government officials will face internal investigations for failing to register cases. Conversely, private hospitals failing to register deaths will face action under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishment Act, 2007.

Music programme today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira will organise a special Harikatha concert on MS Subbulakshmi at 5.30 pm on Saturday at BSK 2nd Stage, with Gowri N Prasad (vocals), Prajna N Prasad, Harikatha and Abhiram Bhat (violin), and Aniruddha Vasudev (mridanga).

Non-monsoon timetable for 5 pairs of trains on Konkan Rly

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) will implement the non-monsoon timetable for the following trains departing from their originating stations on and after September 21:

Train number 12741/12742 Vasco Da Gama-Patna-Vasco Da Gama Weekly Express.

Train number 11097/11098 Pune-Ernakulam-Pune Poorna Weekly Express.

Train number 16595/16596 KSR Bengaluru-Karwar-KSR Bengaluru Panchaganga Express.

Train number 16515/16516 Yeshwantpur-Karwar-Yeshwantpur Tri-Weekly Express.

Train number 16585/16586 SMVT Bengaluru-Murdeshwar-SMVT Bengaluru Daily Express.

NHAI claims E-City flyover waterlogging is 'temporary'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) claimed on Friday that waterlogging on the Electronics City elevated expressway was a "temporary" phenomenon.

Responding to a viral post on X (formerly Twitter), it said that at certain valley locations, water may temporarily accumulate during spells of very heavy and prolonged rainfall.

However, the drainage system ensures that such water is discharged within 5–10 minutes once the rainfall subsides, it added.

The NHAI also claimed to carry out regular maintenance, including cleaning of pipes, gratings and other drainage facilities, at frequent intervals to minimise any inconvenience to users.

An X user, however, maintained that the NHAI started cleaning the flyover only after the issue was pointed out.

The 9.9-km flyover is Bengaluru's longest. People often complain about traffic jams and waterlogging on the flyover during rains.

Project delay: 2 contractors fined Rs 2L each

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) on Friday fined two contractors — JMC Constructions and Ocean Constructions — Rs 2 lakh each for delay in completing white-topping works.

The penalty was issued after Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh pulled up civic officials over the slow progress of works along the Outer Ring Road and nearby stretches. The Chief Secretary has reportedly directed B-SMILE to complete all white-topping works by November.

DKS faces industry backlash over 'blackmail' comment

Tech leaders demand high-level committee to fix Bengaluru in four to five weeks

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Industry leaders criticised Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's statement that companies cannot blackmail the government over infrastructure issues, and that Bengaluru has provided a conducive ecosystem and massive opportunities.

The comments followed logistics platform BlackBuck's decision to partially move operations from the Outer Ring Road (ORR), citing traffic problems.

Mohandas Pai, former Infosys CFO, termed the minister's remark "in bad taste".

"He is our minister. It is our job as citizens to demand as per the city's requirements, and it is his job to make sure the needs are met. The government does not exist without the public. It is the ministers' job to pay attention to the public's grievances and not be dismissive," he told *DH*.

Pai proposed a high-level committee "headed by the chief secretary, along with a few additional chief secretaries, and a few experts who are in the know about urban mobility, like Naresh Venkataraman and RK Mishra". He said this committee could work with Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief M Maheshwar Rao and his five commissioners to rejuvenate the city within four to five weeks.

Pai stressed the need for short-term solutions.

"The top brass of the state government, like the Deputy Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary, need to be involved in the nitty-gritty of the matter. Because they delegate the work to low-ranking officials and there is a lack of strong follow-up, there is a lack of accountability and growing corruption," he added.

MOHANDAS PAI
Former Infosys CFO

"The top brass of the state government, like the Deputy Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary, need to be involved in the nitty-gritty of the matter. Because they delegate the work to low-ranking officials and there is a lack of strong follow-up, there is a lack of accountability and growing corruption.

Shivakumar announced November-end as the deadline to fix all pothole issues.

Prashnath Prakash, partner at Accel, believes the government should "look beyond filling potholes".

"Bengaluru's rapid growth required strategic planning and different levels of infrastructure that we have unfortunately not implemented. And a part of Bengaluru, like the East, that contributes heavily to the state, has received the least funding. Namma Metro in this part of the city should have been prioritised; the government still has the opportunity to accelerate the project," he said.

Harish Bijoor, founder of Harish Bijoor Consults Inc, stressed the need to "demagnetise the city".

"We cannot afford to have this kind of concentration of businesses in spaces that just cannot afford them. However, at this time, I do see some hope in the fact that we have five Bengaluru corporations and five city commissioners under the GBA. Even so, it is the work ethos of sorting things out that needs to bite our people," Bijoor said.

Two more school buses stuck on same Balagere–Panathur stretch

BENGALURU, DHNS

Two school buses got stuck on the Balagere–Panathur stretch on Friday morning, the same location where another bus was trapped last week with 20 children onboard.

One bus was stuck during morning pickup and another during afternoon drop-off. Both incidents involved children onboard, raising parent concerns.

A Christ Public School bus had its front wheel trapped in an open drain on a narrow road. The driver struggled to free the vehicle while traffic halted both ways. A New Horizon Gurukul School bus got stuck in slush, requiring a JCB to extract it.

Dr Sunil Kumar Vuppala, a local resident and parent, said, "The roads here are in dire need of repair and drain pipes.

The New Horizon Gurukul School bus got stuck in slush, requiring a JCB to extract it.

The Christ Public School bus had its front wheel trapped in an open drain on a narrow road. The driver struggled to free the vehicle.

After last week's incident, the drain pipe is being installed."

Another parent, Nilima Kumari, voiced fears: "It takes more than one hour or sometimes two hours to travel just 2.5 km. We are scared to send our children on the road."

Videos of the incidents went viral, sparking outrage over poor infrastructure.

"It is a disaster waiting to happen, anytime. It is sad that children's lives are at risk. The government needs to wake up, it is high time," said an X user.

KR Market parking closure crushes Dasara trade

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) closed the Sri Krishna Rajendra (KR) Market's parking facility for renovation, dampening Dasara business when traders witness a surge in sales.

GBA officials told *DH* a new enterprise won the tender, with parking rates set three times higher than the earlier prices.

Two-wheeler parking previously had five slabs, from Rs 5 for 0-2 hours to Rs 40 for 16-24 hours. The new tender introduces eight slabs, starting at Rs 15 for the first hour and peaking at Rs 175 for 12-24 hours.

The slabs for four-wheelers are the same as two-wheelers with eight slabs, with rates at

The GBA has closed the parking area to take up renovation works.

Rs 24 for the first hour and peaking at Rs 275 for 12-24 hours. Earlier, Rs 100 was charged for 16-24 hours of parking.

Divakar, President of All Traders of SKR Market Merchant's Welfare, told *DH*: "The parking space here is 18,000 square feet. They could have left one part for the parking, and there was no need for such intensive repairs. If it was completely cleaned and the old vehicles were taken out, it would have been sufficient instead of completely refurbishing it."

'Time for extra moolah'

Divakar said a lack of parking facility and steep rates crush Dasara business. "This is the season to make that extra moolah. Now, with no parking, the business is dull. If we park our vehicles for 10-12 hours every day, we will end up spending up to Rs 5,000 every month," he added.

GBA Chie Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao told *DH*: "The car parking of the market is in a shambles, we are chalking out plans to see if we can make it a state-of-the art parking facility."

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh inspected the tech corridor on Friday. GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy and other officials were present during the rounds. DIPR

Chief secy the latest to inspect tech corridor

Directs engineers to ensure Panathur underbridge flood-free

BENGALURU, DHNS

Following the industry leaders' frustration over broken roads, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh inspected the tech corridor on Friday.

Flanked by Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao and Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy, the Chief Secretary examined roads under the East and South corporations, covering Central Silk Board, HSR Layout, Agara Junction, Iblur Junction, Panathur main road, and Vibgyor School Road in Thubarahalli.

Shalini was upset with engineers after finding roads riddled with potholes, reflecting complaints from commuters. She found Panathur Road unmotorable with sewage spilling and footpath slabs broken.

She ordered engineers to repair the roads without delay, prevent flooding at the Panathur railway underbridge, and finish the widening work. She instructed them to build a drain along V Vibgyor School Road under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund.

Before the Chief Secretary, Tushar Girinath, Additional Chief Secretary of Urban Development Department (UDD), also inspected the Outer Ring Road from Central Silk Board to Hebbal.

Commissioners of the five corporations have also been holding inspections with little change on the ground.

'Blame it on the rains'

A senior official said they have plans to repair the roads in a week's time. "The heavy rains have disrupted the work. If there are no rains, we should be able to fill all the potholes by the end of this month," the official said.

Chamundi Hills

A poem by Gopi Warrier

This hill is my eternal abode.
From the day
I manifested here at the prayer of gods
to destroy the buffalo demon
Mahishasura
and his army . Disdainful and hate filled Mahisha thought a woman could never kill him.
Or Shumba, Nishumba
and the horrific
Raktabijasura who recreated himself from each drop of his own spilt blood.
As Kali, I had to drink every drop to destroy him.

I also took the form of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati each taking turns to wipe out Mahisha's never ending army.
His Asuras hell bent on killing all the gods and humans who worship them.

Now , below the hill my little Balachamundi roams with her innocent buffaloes. She is there watching all those who come to my temple .
Even testing those who she thinks will help us in the future.
Not simply seeking me for their selfish needs alone though I help them , if they are sincere in belief.

I was very fond of
Shrikanta the wodeyar king who knew the secret mantra of relieving my own pain from the terrible battle that left me bleeding.
He gave it to his friend, this poet, my devotee.

Any one can come here whether Hindu Muslim or Christian if they believe in me and my purpose , to rid the world of evil.

Dassera is not a pseudo curated museum of culture. It is my living temple , the 9 days of my brutal battle with evil and the tenth day of victory.

But remember this sacred hill belongs only to me and my devotees.

(C) Gopi Warrier
Published by
Delhi London Poetry

ADVT

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More Smiles to you this Festive Season

The central government has announced a reduction in the GST rate for essential electrical appliances such as **LED TVs, air conditioners, and dishwashers** starting from the **22nd Sept 2025**. The GST on these appliances will be **reduced from 28% to 18%.** A clear saving of upto 10% on GST. This important decision will help make modern, high-quality household appliances more affordable for everyone in the country.

At Unilet, we offer you the **Super Discount Sale** with our own GST 2.0 price reduction. You can get up to a **50% discount on LED TVs and ACs,** and up to a **60% discount on 2-ton ACs.**

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- 3-star AC — Pay just ₹1000
- 5-star AC — Pay just ₹2000
- Dishwasher — Pay just ₹2000

Apple Latest Products
The new Apple products, which have been eagerly awaited worldwide, are now available at Unilet.

iPhone 17 Pro features a powerful A19 Bionic Chip, ProMotion Super Retina XDR display, a powerful Quad Pixel Pro Camera, and powerful AI features to deliver an excellent night photography experience. It also has a lightweight design.
iPhone 17 Air features a lightweight, premium design.

Apple Watch Series 11 comes with next-gen health tracking, including heart rate monitoring, blood oxygen, and sleep monitoring. It also offers advanced AI-based suggestions.
AirPods Pro 3 features Adaptive Audio and advanced Noise Cancellation. The powerful AI also enhances your daily listening experience.

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Metro piers to carry ad panels; BMRCL eyes at least Rs 65 cr/year

Contract to cover current & upcoming lines for up to 15 yrs

BENGALURU, DHNS

Metro piers and portals across Bengaluru will soon carry commercial advertisements as the BMRCL looks to boost its non-fare revenue.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has invited Requests for Proposal (RFP) to design, develop, operate and maintain advertisements on select piers and portals along the Purple, Green and Yellow lines, as well as the elevated sections of the upcoming Pink and Blue lines.

Through this initiative, the BMRCL expects to earn at least Rs 65 crore per year, with a 5% CAGR increase, for 12 years. The contract may be extended by three years, according to a senior official with direct knowledge of the matter.

In all, 3,69,640 square feet of advertising space will be available across the five lines, the official added.

The BMRCL issued the RFQ notice on September 18, after withdrawing a similar notice issued earlier this month. The BMRCL reportedly issued the new RFQ after raising the tender amount.

The BMRCL has invited Requests for Proposal (RFP) to design, develop, operate and maintain advertisements on select piers and portals along the Purple, Green and Yellow lines.

The official explained that a single agency would be awarded the contract across the five lines.

"We've set a base amount of Rs 65 crore, but the bidder can quote over and above this," the official told *DH*. "The highest bidder will get the contract."

The official explained that the contractor would have to invest in advertisement panels. "We expect good response," he said. The contract for the Purple, Green and Yellow lines is expected to be awarded by the year-end, while the the Pink and Blue lines will carry the advertisements once they become operational.

The BMRCL decided to go for outdoor advertisements after the state government notified the advertisement bylaws 2024, lifting a seven-year ban on advertisement hoardings.

The BMRCL aims to increase non-fare revenue to about 15% of the fare box revenue, which stood at Rs 573.91 crore in 2023-24. It already runs advertisements inside trains and on their exteriors. It's in the process of finalising contracts for retail space and advertisements at stations and semi-naming rights.

Woman stabbed, sexually harassed, extorted at PG

Suspect files counter-complaint, alleging assault

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 24-year-old woman was allegedly stabbed, sexually harassed, and extorted by a fellow PG resident in Whitefield early Tuesday morning.

The case grew complex after the suspect filed a counter-complaint, alleging assault by PG staff and residents.

The police arrested Sai Babu Chennuru, 37, a native of Andhra Pradesh. The Tuesday morning incident sparked two separate First Information Reports (FIRs).

The woman, a private bank analyst, said the attack occurred around 3 am at a paying guest accommodation in White Rose Layout.

She opened her door after hearing the bell, expecting a friend. Chennuru allegedly forced entry, locked the door, and brandished a knife.

He stabbed the left side of her back, undressed her, clicked explicit photos and attempted to force her into sexual acts, her police statement reveals.

After threatening to murder her and kill himself, he extorted Rs 14,000 from her UPI account and demanded another Rs 70,000 before fleeing.

A friend rushed her to a private hospital where she gave her police statement.

The police registered cases for trespass, extortion, attempted murder and molestation, a police officer close to the investigation said.

Conflicting version

Chennuru's counter-complaint presents a conflicting version, claiming a two-month relationship with the woman and subsequent dispute.

He alleged PG staff Pradeep and Shiva, and three others, assaulted him around 10.30 pm that night.

The assault involved hands, wire and iron rods, causing severe injuries to his hands, legs and face, he claimed.

He was also hospitalised. His version triggered a second FIR.

The police confirmed both parties knew each other.

Investigation continues to verify both complaints while the suspect remains in police custody.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Nightingales Medical Trust: 'Smruthi–Memory Wellness Drive' on World Alzheimer's Day, featuring expert talks, memory enhancement games, painting competition; Krishna Rao Park; 9 am onwards.

Karnataka State Legal Services Authority & Bengaluru District Administration: Exhibition stalls on legal awareness and welfare programmes for women and free health check-up camp; Anu Sivaraman, Shalini Rajneesh to participate; Sambhrama Auditorium; 10 am.

Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Gandhinagar Assembly Constituency: Lecture on 'Foundations of Harmony in Kannada Literature'; Santosh Hanagal, M Prakashamurthy, Saravanan, Srinivasamurthy, K Anand; BBMP Degree & Pre-University College; 10 am.

'Beyond the Tunnel: Finding Better Ways to Move': Talk on the Hebbal–Silk Board twin tunnel project; Speakers: Shaheen Shasha, Ashish Verma; Ashirvad (Loyola Auditorium); 4 pm.

CULTURAL

Department of Kannada and Culture: Maneyangala Maatukathe (monthly talk) with guest Prof Malathi Pattanashetty; Nayana Auditorium; 3 pm.

Arivame: Kodava cultural celebration; Indian Heritage Academy; from 5 pm onwards.

Akhila Bharata Yuva Sangeetha Nritya Kalavidara Okkuta: Bharatanatyam performance by students of Kalikamba Fine Arts; Ramamandira, Rajajinagar 4th Block; 6.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.2°C
Minimum	19.9°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	84%
Sunset (Sept 20)	6:19 pm
Sunrise (Sept 21)	6:09 am
Moonrise	3:01 am
Moonset	4:04 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Air India Express launches daily direct flights to Bangkok

BENGALURU, DHNS: Air India Express will start daily direct flights between Bengaluru and Bangkok from October 18.

The four-hour flight will depart Bengaluru at 11 am and reach Bangkok at 4.45 pm. The return flight will leave Bangkok at 5.45 pm and land in Bengaluru at 8.30 pm.

As an introductory offer, round-trip fares start at Rs 16,800, with bookings open on the airline's website.

Air India Express currently operates more than 440 weekly flights from Bengaluru, connecting to 30 domestic cities and 13 international destinations, including Al Ain, Bahrain, Doha, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, Muscat, Phuket, Ras al Khaimah, Riyadh, Salalah, Sharjah, and Singapore.

Pvt bus runs over meat shop owner

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 56-year-old mutton shop owner died after a private bus ran him over near Kanteerava Stadium on Thursday morning.

The bus driver fled, but was later arrested by the Halasuru Gate traffic police.

The victim, Rafatullah of DG Halli, was riding a two-wheeler when he skidded and fell near Siddalingaiah Junction. A bus coming from behind ran him over.

The police said the rear wheel crushed his chest and head, causing instant death.

The Halasuru Gate traffic police seized the bus and arrested the driver.

A case was registered under Section 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for rash and negligent driving endangering life.

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'Canara Utsav 2025' lays emphasis on cultural & social connect

BENGALURU, DHNS

Canara Bank launched 'Canara Utsav 2025' to boost entrepreneurship, empower women, and preserve local cultural heritage.

The three-day exhibition at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre on MG Road, from September 19 to 21, showcases handcrafted products from artisans across Karnataka as part of the bank's corporate social responsibility initiative.

A pottery-making session.
DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Inaugurating the event, Mahesh M Pai, Chief General Manager of Canara Bank, said, "Through Canara Utsav we aim to go beyond financial inclusion by promoting social and cultural inclusion. This initiative not only supports livelihoods, but also strengthens the entrepreneurial ecosystem at the grassroot level."

The exhibition features diverse products from Bagalkot to Kolar, including traditional Dasara dolls, handmade crochet toys, organic jaggery, fresh farm produce, and traditional cotton clothing. Interactive experiences include live organic food courts, pottery-making sessions, and sketching activities. Nitin from Malavalli, Mandya, brought organic farm products. Shyla, who heads the Shri Chowdeshwari Self-Help Group from Tumakuru, said her group manufactures traditional clothing, employs 22 women, and exports to other states.

Traders body slams pay & park on MG Road

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Traders Association has opposed the pay-and-park system on MG Road.

The city's oldest trade body objected to the corporation charging Rs 15 per hour for two-wheelers and Rs 50 per hour for four-wheelers.

"While we appreciate the effort towards better parking management and regulation, these charges are significantly high and are likely to cause inconvenience to regular visitors, shoppers and employees in and around MG Road," said Vijayashekar Ravi, association vice-president.

"To ensure accessibility and encourage more footfall, we request the parking charges be revised to a more reasonable level," he said, proposing Rs 5 per hour for two-wheelers and Rs 25 per hour for four-wheelers.

The association questioned how a tender floated by the BBMP could stand when the civic body is already dissolved. It urged the Bengaluru City Central Corporation to re-tender the work with revised rates.

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

Advertisement for various posts to be filled on transfer on deputation basis (including short term contract) in the Salt Commissioner's Organization (SCO), an attached office under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for filling up various posts in SCO, an attached office under the DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry as under:

S. N.	Name of post	7th CPC Pay level	No.of posts	Place of posting
1	Deputy Salt Commissioner	Grade Pay Rs.7600/- /Level 12	2	Regional office at Chennai, Mumbai
2	Assistant Salt Commissioner	Grade Pay Rs. 6600/-/ Level-11	2	Regional office at Chennai, Mumbai
3	Assistant Civil Engineer	Grade Pay Rs.4600/- / Level-7	1	Regional office Mumbai

2. The eligibility conditions including educational qualification, experience, the period of deputation can be seen in the detailed Vacancy Circular dt. 08.09.2025 on **https://dpiit.gov.in** (under 'publications -Jobs' tab) and **http://www.saltcomindia.gov.in**.

3. Application duly filled in and supported by all relevant documents and envelop should be superscripted, "Application for deputation in Salt Commissioner's Organization" may be sent through proper channel to :- Under Secretary, Salt Section, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Room No. 364, Udyog Bhawan, Rafi Ahmed Marg, New Delhi - 110011, **Email: salt-section@gov.in**

4. The last date for receipt of applications is 60 days from the date of publication of this circular in Employment News.

5. These are tentative vacancy which may be increased or decreased.

CBC-05201/11/0009/2526

F. No.- A-12039/01/2024-E.III
Government of India
Ministry of Science & Technology
Department of Science & Technology

ADVT. NO. DST/04/2025- Estt.III

Applications are invited for filling up of one post of Mission Director, National Mission-Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems, Group 'A', Gazetted, Non-Ministerial, [Level- 14 in the pay matrix (Rs. 1,44,200-Rs. 2,18,200)] on deputation (including Short-term contract) basis in the Department of Science & Technology. Eligible and willing candidates are required to first fill the application **online**, through this Department's portal **https://recruitment.dst.gov.in/** using valid email ID. This online portal for applying shall be available for a period of **45 days** from the date of advertisement in Employment News / Rozgar Samachar. This application form, duly signed by the candidate, along with copies of ACRs/ APARs, duly attested on each page by an officer not below the rank of Under Secretary to the Govt. of India or an officer of equivalent rank, and also a summary sheet of the gradings received in these ACRs/APARs for the last five years are to be forwarded through proper channel so as to reach this Department by Registered Post or by Speed Post within **30 days (45 days for remote areas)** from the date of closure of online portal. Applicants (otherwise eligible to apply) working in organisation/institute that do not have the system of recording APARs/ACRs, need to furnish their work profiles and gradings of the last five years duly certified by their head of organisation/institute along with their application, through proper channel, so as to reach this Department by registered post or by speed post within **30 days (45 days for remote areas)** from the date of closure of online portal. For application process and details of qualifications, experience, age limit, last date of application, duration of deputation & other requirements etc. visit our **website www.dst.gov.in.** Any addendum/ corrigendum or any further updates regarding the recruitment process shall be posted only on this Department's website.

Sd/- Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

CBC 36101/11/0008/2526

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

AUCTION PROGRAMME NOTICE No: S/XIII/03/2025-26

Following is the Schedule of E-Auction to be held during months of **October, November & December-2025** for Sale of on-line Scrap, Serviceable Locomotives and Depot Scrap under the jurisdictions of General Stores Depot / Hubballi and Mechanical General Stores Depot / Ashokapuram depots and Hubballi, Mysuru and Bengaluru Divisions of South Western Railway.

Types of Auction	Venue	October-2025		November-2025		December-2025	
E-Auction	General Stores Depot / Hubballi	7th	21st	4th	18th	3rd	16th
	Mechanical General Stores Depot / Ashokapuram / Mysuru	8th	23rd	5th	19th	4th	17th
	Hubballi Division	9th	27th	6th	20th	9th	22nd
	Bengaluru Division	14th	29th	11th	25th	10th	23rd
	Mysuru Division	15th	30th	12th	26th	11th	29th

Sale of Serviceable Locomotives : Following Fourteen number Condemned, Surplus, Under Aged and Serviceable Locomotives are in E-Auction Catalogue of Sr.DMM/SBC viz WDG3A-13031, 13056, 13118, 13243, 13249, 13263, 13268, 13299, 13270, 13331& 14796, WDM3A: 14082, 14084, 16670.
You all are requested to actively participate in the above scheduled e-Auction. For details, please contact Deputy Chief Material Manager / General Stores Depot / Hubballi (0836-2363466/9731668760), Deputy Chief Material Manager / Mechanical General Stores Depot / Ashokapuram (0821-2480171/ 9731665756),Senior Divisional Material Manager / Hubballi (0836363497/9731668750), Senior Divisional Material Manager / Bengaluru (080-22873081/9731666750), Senior Divisional Material Manager / Mysuru (0821-2420817/9731667750). For Locos Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer / DSL / Krishnarajapuram - 9731666451 & SSE/DSL/Krishnarajapuram -9731666482.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in/E-auction

PUB/472/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group,
ISRO HQ, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bengaluru -560 094 Ph:080-22172476/2479/2033 Fax No.080-23513126

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering for the following work:

Title of work	**Establishment of 110kWp Roof Top Solar (RTS) Power Plants at various locations of ISRO Buildings. A. 80kWp RTS-PP at Antariksh Bhavan Campus, ISRO HQ, Bengaluru B. 10kWp RTS-PP at HSFC Campus, Devanahalli, Bengaluru C. 20kWp RTS-PP at ISRO Guest House, Dwaraka, New Delhi.**
Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/E/C/01/AB/RTS/ 2025-26 Dated: 19.09.2025**
Estimated cost put to tender	**₹82.33 Lakhs**
Period of completion in months	**Six (06) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:10 hrs on 19.09.2025 To: 23:59 hrs on 05.10.2025**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to: 15:30 hrs on 08.10.2025**
Due date and time of opening of tenders [Technical Bid]	**16:00 hrs onwards on 10.10.2025**
Earnest Money Deposit [EMD]	**₹1,64,660/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice inviting Tender (NIT) on websites: **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** at tender free view. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and Tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website: **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head, CMD, ISRO HQ

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E- TENDER NOTICE No. 20/SBC/25 of 04.09.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Chikka Banavara section: Strengthening of bank by providing standard width and improving drainage at isolated locations from 3/870 to 79/530 (SL) for a length of 16.65 km. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 1,59,11,060/-
2	Chikka Banavara - Hassan sec : Proposed new bridge No. 39-A at rly km 20/750 near nelamangala station - RCC box size 1x5.0mx4.25m by box pushing method - Deposit work for Yettinahole project division no. 4. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 2,07,65,877/-
3	Bengaluru - Dharmavaram section: Construction of precast RCC drain in between tracks for 4.5 kms at isolated locations between 128/700-134/700 between Rangepalli - Penukonda in SSE/PWAY/Penukonda section. Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 2,74,51,299/-
4	Bengaluru - Sampige road sec: Construction of RCC side drain for a length of 8240m in connection with the work of Complete Track Renewal (P) of existing 52kg rails on 60kg PSC of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90 UTS rails and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 21.35 km from km 17/650-39/000 up line in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvanthpur section. Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 9,84,44,038/-
5	**Sub Work-I** : Bengaluru - Sampige road section : Construction of RCC drain for a length of 1500m and Ballast retaining wall for a length of 1000m in connection with the work of Complete Track Renewal (P) of existing 52kg rails on 60kg psc of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90UTS rails and 60kg wider based sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 19.4 Tkm from km 49/000-68/400 DN line in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvantpur section. **Sub Work-II** : Bengaluru - Sampige road section : Construction of drain for a length of 750m and Ballast retaining wall for a length of 500m in connection with the work of Complete track renewal (P) of existing 52kg rails on 52kg PSC of 1540 nos/KM with 60kg/90UTS rails and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 17.15 km from km 17/650-10/500 and 39/000-49/000 DN line in Assistant Divisional Engineer /Yesvantpur section. **Sub Work-III :** Bengaluru - Sampige road sec: Proposed construction of ballast retaining wall for a length of 1150m in connection with the work of Complete track renewal (P) of existing 52kg rails on 52kg PSC of 1540 nos/KM with 60kg/90UTS rails and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 21.35 km from km 17/650 – 39/000 UP line in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvantpur section. Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 3,83,30,839/-
6	Yelahanka – Chintamani section: Cess repair and widening of formation of isolated locations for a length of 13.55 km from 1/600 to 75/200 (SL) in SSE/PWAY/Yelahanka section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 2,20,43,234/-
7	**Sub Work-I:** Penukonda – Dharmavaram section: Complete Track Renewal (Primary) for a length of 0.6 kms from 0/000 to 0/600 at Penukonda yard Road – 1 (SSPN Line) and Through Turnout Renewal (Primary) of point number – 62A at Penukonda yard between km 0/180-0/240 (1 set) in SSE/PWAY/Penukonda section. **Sub Work-II :** Bengaluru – Dharmavaram section : Through fittings renewal for a length of 15.4 km from km 56/700 to 72/100 DN line in SSE/PWAY/Hindupur section. **Sub Work-III :** Yelahanka – Chintamani section : Replacement of over aged 52kg SEJ with PSC improved SEJ – 18 numbers in SSE/PWAY/Yelahanka section.	Rs. 57,52,797/-
8	**Sub Work-I:** Bengaluru - Sampige road section: Improvements to staff quarters at Chikka Banavara, Golhalli, Dodbele, Hirehalli, Kyatsandra, Tumakuru, Heggere, Gubbi station colonies. **Sub Work-II** : Yesvantpur - Improvements to quarters of Yesvantpur colony. **Sub Work-III :** Bengaluru - Dharmavaram section: Improvements to staff quarters at Dodballapur, Makalidurga, Thondebhavi, Gauribidanur, Hindupur, Penukonda and Sri satya sai Prashanthi nilayam colonies in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Hindupur jurisdiction. Maintenance period is 12 months	Rs. 3,96,67,349.29
9	Bengaluru – Dharmavaram sec : Construction of RCC side drain for a length of 1220m in connection with the work of Complete Track Renewal(P) of existing 60kg rails on 60kg PSC of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90 UTS rails on 60kg PSC of 1660/km for a length of 11.60 km from 46/500-56/134 DN and 56/134-58/100 UP between Oddarahalli – Thondebhavi station in SSE/PWAY/Hindupur section. Maintenance period is 6 months	Rs. 1,42,21,837/-
10	Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bridges Sec: Maintenance of steel girder bridges and Road Over bridges under the jurisdiction of SSE/Br/North/Bengaluru in Bengaluru division. Maintenance period is 01 month	Rs. 71,45,536/-
11	Maintenance of steel girder and road over bridges under the jurisdiction of SSE/Br/South/Bengaluru in Bengaluru division for the year 2024-25 & 2025-26. (Maintenance period is 1 month).	Rs. 1,02,22,030/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 06-10-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/467/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination, Bengaluru**

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/130/2025 Dated 22.07.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of a new broad gauge railway line between Maluguru (Chainage (-) 1906.6 (Ch: 108125 of Yelahanka - Penukonda)) to Palasamudram (Chainage 17/150) including 02 new yards (Chalivendala & Palasamudram) and existing Maluguru Yard modification with a route length of 19.057 km including Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification & Electrical General Service works. **(Tender Ref. No. MLUPALASAMUDRAM-EPC01-R1)**	Rs. 296,21,09,528/-

Date of Closing

Existing	Modified
24.09.2025 (15:00 hrs)	Tender Cancelled

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/486/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Invitation of E-tender on behalf of the President of India acting through Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Project), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following works-**NIT No:**EPC-WCR-JBP-SnT-PROJ-04, **Name of work with location:**Survey, design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of trackside KAVACH (Indian Railway Automatic Train Protection System) equipments at stations/LC gates/IBS locations including OFC works, erection of towers and associated Civil/Track/ Electrical works required for KAVACH in ITARSI-MANIKPUR, MAHDEIYA-BINA MALKHERI-MAHADEOKHERI, Entire KATNI COMPLEX, BINA MALKHERI-AGASOD, SATNA-REWA, KAIMA-SAGMA, BANSAPAHAR-OHAN section of Jabalpur Division of West Central Railway.**Approx cost of the work (In Rs):**₹385,71,21,552.30/- **Address of the office:**Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Project),1st Floor, DRM office Building, Jabalpur, **Bid Security (In Rs):**₹1,92,85,700/-, **Completion period (in days):** 960 days, **Closing Date & Time**: 17.00 Hrs on 24.10.2025, Complete details of the e-tender notice is available on the Railway website" **http://ireps.gov.in"** and also placed on notice board of the Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Project) office, WCR, Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted for above tender. **(SD.)**

Dy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer(Proj.)WCR, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Modi Government announces enhanced Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Jute

Modi Government gives MSP Support to the farmers through 110 Purchase Centres & 14 Regional Offices of JCI in six Jute Growing States.

"Our government has taken a big step in the interest of jute-producing farmer. An increase in the MSP of raw jute has been approved for the year 2025-26. This will benefit lakhs of farmers associated with this sector in many states of the country."
— Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

MSP RATE : 2025-26

Minimum Support Prices fixed for different varieties and grades of raw Jute Mesta & Bimli all over India for the 2025-2026 Crop Season are as follows:

ALL OVER INDIA							
Variety	Grade ⇨	TD-1/W1	TD-2/ W2	TD-3/ W3	TD-4/ W4	TD-5/ W5	
Tossa/White	₹ / Qtl.	6350	6150	5650	5125	4875	
Variety	Grade ⇨	M1 / O.TOP	M2 / S.MID	M3 / MID	M4 / BOT	M5 / B.BOT	M6 / X.BOT
Mesta / Bimli	₹ / Qtl.	4135	3985	3860	3760	3660	3560

Modi Government committed for the welfare of Jute Farmers

- **Enhancement of MSP by 135% in 10 years MSP - ₹ 2400/ Per Quintal in CY 2014-15 has been increased to ₹ 5650/ Per Quintal in CY 2025-26**
- **MSP Operation started in new States - Nagaland, Meghalaya, Jharkhand**
- **Disbursement of farmers' payments within 3 working days**

Modi Government has an ongoing Jute Agronomy Development Project I-Care for 11 years

- Distribution of subsidized (50%) High Yield Certified Seeds
- Free Distribution of Modern Agronomic Tools to farmers
- Free Distribution of Retting Accelerators
- Free Demonstration and Awareness Programs
- Benefiting 5.6 lakh farmers and covering 2.15 lakh hectare land from 2015

Modi Government has launched PAAT MITRO App providing:

- MSP rates & purchase centres information.
- Agronomic advisories.
- Weather updates.
- Quality parameters of jute.
- Payment status after procurement.

Government of India's MSP procurement comparison between last two decades
(2005-2014 : 2015-2024)

2005-2014		2015-2024	
Quantity (in lakh Bales approx.)	Value (in Crore ₹)	Quantity (in lakh Bales approx.)	Value (in Crore ₹)
15	380	18	1345

JCI

দ্য জুট কর্পোরেশন অফ ইন্ডিয়া লিমিটেড
বস্ত্র মন্ত্রালয়ের অন্তর্গত ভারত সরকারের একটি সংস্থা
भारतीय पटसन निगम लिमिटेड
वस्त्र मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार की एक संस्था
The Jute Corporation of India Limited
A Government of India CPSE under Ministry of Textiles

Central Nodal Agency for MSP in Raw Jute

Head Office: Patsan Bhavan, 3rd and 4th Floor, Block-CF,
Action Area – 1, New Town, Kolkata – 700156,
Phone: (033) 2252 1100 / 6720 / 6770 / 7107 / 7109
Fax : (033) 2252 1771. Email: jci@jcimail.in www.jutecorp.in

CBC 41122/15/0018/2526

SBI bank robbery: Rs 41.4L cash, 6.55 kg gold recovered

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: The Vijayapura police have recovered Rs 41.4 lakh cash and 6.55 kg of gold that were stolen from the State Bank of India Chadchan branch from an abandoned house at Huljanthi in Maharashtra.

"In a joint operation with Maharashtra police, the Vijayapura district police have recovered a bag containing Rs 41.4 lakh cash and 6.55 kg gold, which was looted from Chadchan SBI branch, from an abandoned house in Huljanthi. The police have launched a manhunt to nab the accused," Vijayapura Superintendent of Police Laxman Nimbargi told reporters.

"After looting the bank, the three accused, while trying to escape with the loot in a car, rammed their vehicle to a bike near Huljanthi. After the locals waylaid them, they abandoned the car and escaped with the loot," the SP said.

On September 17, at 6.30 pm, three masked men armed with country pistols and knives allegedly threatened the manager, cashier and other employees of the SBI Chadchan branch and made away with cash and gold worth Rs 20 crore.

Aland voter deletion case: Congress govt may form SIT

Priyank accuses CEO of 'lying' about sharing info to CID

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Congress government is likely to constitute a dedicated special investigation team (SIT) on the unauthorised attempts to delete voters in the Aland constituency during the 2023 Assembly polls.

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would decide on this in a day or two.

Earlier this week, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi went after Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Aland case, which is currently being probed by the Karnataka CID. He accused Kumar of refusing to share necessary information to the CID to help nab the culprits who tried to delete Congress voters in Aland.

There were attempts to delete 6,018 voters from the electoral rolls in Aland. Only 24 voters were deleted.

B R PATIL
Aland MLA

"There's a big network involved in this attempt to delete votes. When I rang the mobile numbers that were used to submit deletion applications, calls went to Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

The deletion of the remaining 5,994 votes did not happen as the applications were found incorrect.

Senior Congress lawmaker B R Patil won from Aland against BJP's Subhash Guttedar by 10,348 votes.

Addressing a news conference, Priyank charged Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V Anbukumar with "lying" about sharing information with the CID.

"The CEO has said that all information was provided to the police on September 6, 2023. In that case, why did the CEO's office, on February 4, 2025, write to the Election Commission principal secretary listing out letters written between March 2023 and January 2025 seeking information? The CEO should clarify on why he's lying," Priyank said.

Voter deletion at Aland would not have come to the fore if it was not for Patil and other Congress leaders who raised the issue, Priyank pointed out.

Patil claimed that he would have lost the election by 1,000-2,000 votes if 5,994 votes were deleted.

"There's a big network involved in this attempt to delete votes. When I rang the mobile numbers that were used to submit deletion applications, calls went to Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh," he said.

Karnataka Congress leaders have also urged Siddaramaiah to constitute an SIT to probe "vote theft" at Mahadevapura under the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha seat.

BRS threatens to launch massive stir to oppose raising Almatti height

HYDERABAD, DHNS

A file photo to Almatti dam in Karnataka.

Expressing its opposition to Karnataka's decision to raise the height of the Almatti Dam from 519ft to 524ft, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), the opposition party in neighbouring Telangana, has threatened to launch a massive stir.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao came down heavily on the Congress government in Karnataka for deciding to raise the Almatti Dam height, calling it a "death warrant" for Telangana farmers.

He slammed Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for "luxuriating in Delhi" while a dangerous conspiracy was being hatched against Telangana's farmers.

Pointing to the Karnataka Cabinet's recent decision to raise the height of the dam, KTR alleged that this was not merely for an additional 100tmc of water, but part of a conspiracy to deprive Telangana of its rightful share of Krishna waters and turn erstwhile Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, and Ranga Reddy districts into deserts.

"Congress is in power here and there too. Do you have neither the courage to speak nor the guts to resist when Telangana farmers' lives are at stake," he asked, asking both the Telangana CM and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to answer the people of Telangana.

"Will you sacrifice the interests of Telangana farmers for Karnataka's interests," asked KTR. During former Telangana CM K Chandrasekahara Rao's tenure, 90% of the work on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme had been completed, said KTR.

"The entire project will be rendered useless if the height of the Almatti Dam is raised. Revanth, who calls himself a son of Palamuru, is silently watching this disaster," said the BRS leader.

Refuting Congress's allegations of corruption on the Kaleshwaram project, KTR pointed to the steep costs that Karnataka is incurring for raising the height of Almatti Dam. "Karnataka has admitted that Rs 70,000 crore was needed just for acquiring 1.3 lakh acres land. If that is the cost for raising the height of a dam by five feet, what is wrong in spending Rs 93,000 crore on Kaleshwaram, which boasts three barrages, 15 reservoirs, 21 pumping stations, 203km of tunnels and canals stretching to 1,700km, all of which irrigate 40 lakh acres."

Hailing the Kaleshwaram project as the 'Kalpavriksha' of Telangana, KTR dismissed allegations of irregularities in the project to the tune of Rs 1 lakh crore as malicious propaganda.

KTR reminded that the Almatti issue is pending before the Supreme Court. In 2013, undivided AP had filed an SLP against the KWDT-II permission, securing a stay citing riparian rights. After Telangana's formation, KCR continued the fight, ensuring the stay remained. "When the case is sub judice, why is the Karnataka Congress government taking such a brazen decision, and why is Telangana Congress not questioning it," asked KTR.

He pointed out that even Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis reacted immediately, promising to approach the Supreme Court, while Revanth remained asleep. He contrasted Revanth with KCR, who had personally spoken to neighbouring CMs, cleared objections, and completed Kaleshwaram. "Revanth has no sincerity to protect Telangana's interests – that is the misfortune of our people," he said.

KTR accused the Congress of sacrificing Kaleshwaram waters to Andhra Pradesh and now trying to hand Krishna waters to Karnataka, thereby undermining Telangana's rights on both its lifelines.

He declared that BRS would fight this unjust water robbery both legally and through a people's movement with farmers.

Market fee evasion: Ethanol plants, rice mills to face heat

BENGALURU, DHNS:

In a move to tackle market fee evasion, Agriculture Marketing Minister Shivanand Patil on Friday directed authorities to issue notices and file criminal cases against ethanol plants and rice mills failing to pay the required market fees.

His directive came after reports revealed that several ethanol plants, particularly those using maize and rice, were defaulting on their market fee payments depriving the state of vital revenue.

The minister was speaking after a state-level progress review meeting of the Agriculture Marketing Department at Vikas Soudha in the city.

Patil said that essential agricultural products like maize, rice, betel nuts, black pepper, and cotton serve as crucial revenue sources for Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs). He ordered immediate action against the offenders, while urging the authorities to stay vigilant and to closely monitor the situation.

Patil voiced frustration over the inefficacy of vigilance teams established across four divisions to curb market fee evasion. Despite resources being allocated, market fee evasion continues unabated, partly due to a lack of cooperation from certain officials.

He pointed out that border districts like Belagavi and Kalaburagi were increasingly seeing products illegally diverted to neighboring states, with some commercial tax officials and members of the vigilance teams allegedly facilitating these activities. He warned that such practices must be stopped immediately.

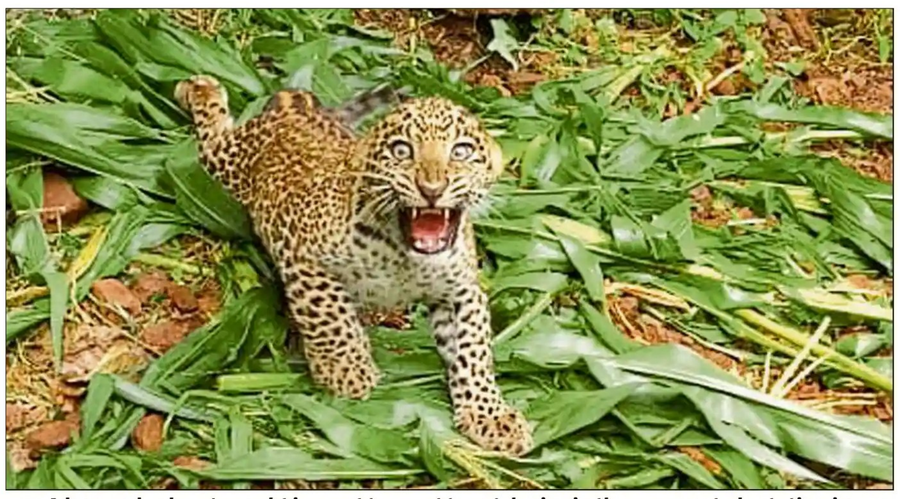
The minister also raised concerns over the declining trade of betel nuts in APMCs, specifically pointing out that nearly 50% of the expected betel nut trade was missing in some APMCs. He instructed officials to gather data from the Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative (CAMPCO), Malnad Areca Marketing Co-Operative Society Limited (MAMCOS), and other APMCs to understand the reasons behind the decline and find long-term solutions.

He also highlighted inefficiencies in APMC warehouses and the delayed distribution of agricultural products, despite rate revisions. Additionally, he stressed the importance of timely reporting of price instabilities to ensure price stabilization and prevent unauthorized decisions regarding APMC funds.

Further, Patil focused on the mismanagement of Hubballi APMC, North Karnataka's largest APMC, where numerous complaints about market fee collection and trade diversion had been received.

Finally, as part of a broader crackdown, Patil ordered the revocation of trade licences of vendors who had not engaged in business for over five years.

WRONG CATCH



A leopard cub got caught in a net trap set to catch pigs in the arecanut plantation in Basavapatna of Channagiri taluk, Davangere district on Friday. On learning about the matter, the Forest Department staff of Mavinakatte Range rushed to the spot and rescued the leopard cub from the trap.

Student ends life as his video clip goes viral

HASSAN, DHNS: A student ended his life by hanging, after a video clip of him seen with his friends at a park, went viral on social media.

K Pavan (21) of Kallenahalli, studying final year BA at Mosale Hosahalli Degree College, in Hassan taluk, is the deceased. Pavan had come to Hassan town on Wednesday and was seated on a bench in the park with two of his friends, who were girls.

A woman captured this on a mobile phone and posted a reel on the social media, describing that they were misbehaving in a public place frequented by small children. What should be done with such people? she had asked.

Upset over this, he called everyone and requested them to delete the video. When they did not relent, he hanged himself at the cowshed of his house. The Hassan Rural Police have registered a case.

Yuva Nidhi beneficiaries shun training fearing loss of allowance

First-ever Bengaluru Skill Summit to be held from Nov 4 to 6

BENGALURU, DHNS

Beneficiaries of Yuva Nidhi, a 'guarantee' scheme that offers unemployment allowance, are not turning up for the training offered by the Congress government in the state.

Thinking that the financial assistance they are getting under the scheme will be discontinued if they join the training programme, the graduates and diploma holders are not showing interest in the training.

Clarifying this to the candidates, Minister for Skill Development and Livelihood Dr Sharan Prakash Patil said, "The amount paid under the Yuva Nidhi scheme will be continued even after they join the training."

The minister further stated that the financial assistance under the scheme would be stopped only if the beneficiary got a job or pursued higher education.

"Over 3 lakh graduates and diploma holders have registered so far for the Yuva Nidhi scheme and our intention is to provide them employment by giving training. Unfortunately, they are not turning up for the training," Patil said.

Meanwhile, responding to whether there are plans to make training mandatory for those who registered under the Yuva Nidhi, the minister said, "We can mandate the training, but we will give them some time before doing it."

The department, in association with Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, will organise the first-ever "Bengaluru Skill Summit" from November 4 to 6. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the summit at the hotel Lalit Ashok on November 4.

The summit will focus on emerging skills, skills for all, innovation and global skills. Skillathon 2025 will be the special highlight of the summit. This is a youth-focused competition designed to channel student creativity into solutions for challenges in skilling, vocational education and employment. The registration window is open and closes on October 10.

Meanwhile, Kaushalya Karnataka Awards 2025 will be given in recognition of excellence and contributions across the skilling ecosystem, including government and private institutions for long term skilling programmes, trainers and principals for outstanding leadership and delivery, districts for effective programme implementation, trainees for exemplary achievement, and corporates making significant contributions in skill development.

Skill policy

Patil said that a new Skill Policy is ready and will be placed before the next Cabinet. As per the information, the policy mainly focuses on promoting employment among youth. However, the minister refused to reveal details and said, "As it is yet to be placed before the Cabinet I cannot share much details."

'Atmanirbhar Bharat can shield our economy from global crises'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Atmanirbhar Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan has the potential to shield the Indian economy from global crises, said Andhra Pradesh BJP president Daggubati Purandareswari in Bengaluru on Friday.

Participating in a state-level workshop on the initiative at the Karnataka BJP headquarters, Purandeswari called for a structured and focussed approach to the implementation of the Atma Nirbhar programme.

"Self-reliance is critically important, and we must raise awareness about it at every level," said Purandeswari, calling on all states to adopt a systematic and structured vision to implement the scheme.

Purandeswari even called for the formation of a state-level team to drive grassroots participation in the initiative.

"The campaign will be carried out between September and December. Party members must organise women and youth conventions in the districts to increase the campaign's outreach and to promote inclusivity," she added.

A workshop would be held in October wherein operational guidelines for the campaign would be laid out, Purandeswari said.

Govt gives nod for 10 yoga & naturopathy hospitals

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has approved establishment of ten yoga and naturopathy hospitals across the state under National Ayush Mission. Ten more hospitals will be approved soon.

The government approved the project on the condition of not requesting additional funds.

The first batch of hospitals will be opened under the Public Private Partnership model in eight locations. Two hospitals each in Belagavi and Bagalkot and one each in Gadag, Koppal, Haveri, Bengaluru Rural and Mysuru region.

Currently, six workers including a medical officer, one male and female therapist, one male and female attendant and one multipurpose worker will be allocated to all hospitals. A total of 120 workers for 20 hospitals will be taken as contractual workers.

A proposal for funds for 10 other hospitals has been sent to National Ayush Mission by the central government, according to the order.

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Plan to rent out space in Davangere bus stand hits roadblock

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS

The plan of the Davangere Smart City Limited to rent out 1.3 lakh sq ft commercial space (shopping mall) for a multiplex and shopping mall on the new bus stand premises here seems to have come a cropper.

The bus terminal has been built at a cost of Rs 130 crore, but the commercial space has been lying vacant for the past one year, post its inauguration. Despite inviting tender six times, the response has been poor.

The newly constructed bus terminal in Davangere.

Sources in KSRTC Davangere division said KSRTC initially invited tenders, expecting a monthly revenue of Rs 59 lakh. Due to poor response from bidders, the rate was reduced to Rs 55 lakh.

The corporation has now decided to further reduce the revenue expectation from Rs 55 lakh to Rs 41.5 lakh.

KSRTC divisional traffic officer Fakruddin said big companies generally bag such tenders and then lease or rent out the space to individual operators. Yet not a single bidder participated.

The facility includes a parking space, first floor, second floor and a multiplex with three screens.

Two small cinema halls have 175 seats each, while the bigger one has a seating capacity of 300.

KSRTC officials are now gearing up for the tender process for the seventh time.

A whopping 17,000 sqft is available at the cellar for vehicle parking of customers and staffers of the tenants or the lessee.

Sachin, a businessman and building developer, told *DH*, "Unlike the high school ground where the temporary bus terminal functioned, the new bus terminal is not centrally located. People of the city have not yet adapted to the mall culture. The S S Mall owned by district in-charge minister S S Mallikarjun's family on Shamanur Road still has vacant commercial space. Above all, the city is not witnessing much development towards Avaragere and new commercial establishments are not coming up there. So, finding a bidder is an uphill task".

KSRTC Davangere divisional controller Shivakumaraiah said it was too early to comment on the issue.

"We are hopeful that it will be occupied soon. It was a joint venture by Davangere Smart City Limited and KSRTC," he added.

GBA polls: Surjewala holds meetings

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala held a series of meetings on Friday to discuss the impending elections to municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Randeep Singh Surjewala

Surjewala, who oversees the party's affairs in Karnataka, met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar. This meeting is said to have discussed the criticism being faced by the government over potholes in Bengaluru. Siddaramaiah has convened a meeting Saturday with top officials to discuss the situation.

According to sources, Surjewala met ministers from Bengaluru and asked them to start identifying candidates who can contest the municipal polls.

He also discussed measures the party should take to ensure its candidates poll enough votes, lest independent candidates end up winning. Surjewala also asked the party to rope in members of Guarantee Implementation Committees for poll preparations.

Meanwhile, Government Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed, who has been appointed as the observer for the Mahalakshmi Layout constituency, held a meeting to review the party's poll preparedness.

Stampede lessons: Elaborate crowd mgmt plan for Dasara

Routes identified for emergency evacuation

MYSURU, DHNS

Keen to avoid a Chinnaswamy stadium-like stampede, the Mysuru City police have come up with several measures for crowd management during this Dasara. The festivities will begin on September 22.

Mysore City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar gave the details at a press meet in Mysuru on Friday.

The police have identified routes for emergency evacuation and shifting of people from various venues of Dasara events. They have also identified government and private hospitals in case of any eventualities. The hospitals have been told to reserve beds and ensure availability of doctors, staff and medical facilities in case of an emergency. They have even done mock drills for emergency rescue.

Mysuru city police review security measures at various Dasara venues, including Chamundi Hill. DH PHOTO

Police patrol vehicles will be ready to reach any venue in case of an untoward incident or emergency. As many as 26 ambulances and 32 vehicles of the Fire and Emergency Services department would be parked at strategic places near the 15 venues of Dasara events during the first 10 days. They would be on Mysuru Palace premises, near gates, on Jumbo Savari procession route and near gates of Bannimantapa Stadium on the Vijayadashami Day.

Apart from 30,614 CCTV cameras installed by the general public and those installed by police at different public places as per Karnataka Public Safety Enforcement Act 2017, additional 200 additional CCTV cameras have been installed at all venues and procession route.

Drones will be used to monitor the movements. Crime expert personnel are deployed at railway station and bus stops to keep an eye on suspicious persons.

A team of 52 members of social media monitoring cell of the city police will keep an eye on any fake news or old videos about Dasara or other aspects, which might create anxiety among people.

Ex-serviceman held for offensive remark on chief minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: An ex-serviceman from Hassan district has been arrested for posting offensive remarks about CM Siddaramaiah. Vasanth Kumar, a native of Alur, was arrested on September 17, according to the Central Crime Branch (CCB).

At the diamond jubilee of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing in Mysuru on September 1, Siddaramaiah had jokingly asked President Draupadi Murmu whether she knew Kannada. Referring to this, Kumar addressed the CM in the singular in a Facebook post, asking whether he know Odia, the President's mother tongue. The CCB registered a suo motu case against Kumar and traced him to his native village based on his IP address. A Bengaluru court has remanded him in judicial custody.

Govt, Azim Premji Foundation launch scholarship for college girls

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The state government in association with Azim Premji Foundation has launched the "Deepika Student Scholarship" programme for girl students who join higher education from the current academic year.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and founder of Azim Premji Foundation, Azim Premji, exchange a memorandum of understanding on "Deepika" scholarship, at a programme in Bengaluru on Friday. Ministers M C Sudhakar and H K Patil are seen. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday launched the program. This scheme provides Rs 30,000 per year to female students who have completed pre-university course in government colleges and have enrolled in any general degree, professional degree, or diploma course at any college including the private ones. It will benefit over 37,000 girl students starting from the academic year 2025-26. If more than 37,000 eligible students enroll, the government will continue to provide scholarships to all qualified applicants.

Siddaramaiah said, "Azim Premji has undertaken many initiatives through the Azim Premji Foundation. He is providing aid for distribution of eggs and banana for children in government and aided schools."

The students must have completed class 10 and PUC in government schools and colleges and they must pass every year without fail.

Azim Premji, founder of Azim Premji Foundation said that when he started the Foundation 25 years ago, it was his dream to ensure every child in India gets a good school education. "During this period, I have seen more and more children going to school. When I meet school students, they tell me now that they want to go to college. This has made me very happy. So I decided to start a scholarship program for girls who want to go to college," he said.

FIR against BJP leaders over remarks on ST tag for Kurubas

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru police have booked senior BJP leader Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and party MLA T S Srivatsa following their remarks on the Kuruba community.

Narayanaswamy is reported to have made offensive remarks about the state government's proposal to include the Kuruba community to the list of the Scheduled Tribes.

Srivatsa, the Krishnaraja MLA, is said to have made similar comments in Mysuru and Benglauru.

"In the heat of opposing the chief minister, they have insulted and committed atrocities against the entire Kuruba community. Through social media and the press, they have made statements in a way that instigates the Scheduled Tribes and the Valmiki community to rise against the Kuruba community," said Siddanna Teji, who leads an organisation seeking ST tag for Kurubas.

He filed a complaint with the state police chief, which was subsequently transferred to the Vidhana Soudha police station.

Home Minsiter G Parameshwara, state police chief M A Saleem and Home Department Additional Chief Secretary Tushar Girinath at a review meeting on Friday.

Over 10k posts of police constables vacant in state: HM

Says immediate action on cops involved in illegal acts

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister Parameshwara on Friday held a review meeting with senior police officers regarding the law and order in the state, including the cases of rowdyism, atrocities against women and bank robberies.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting at the Vidhana Soudha, he said cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were also reviewed. "Compared to the last three years, the conviction rate stands at 10%. This was examined with the officials concerned. Recruitment of police and prison staff was also discussed, and directions were given to complete the process," he added.

Eleven policemen, including an inspector linked to the drug mafia, have been suspended. Officials have been directed to immediately conduct departmental inquiries against them and submit reports to the government for further action, including dismissal, he stated.

He added that the local DCP and inspector would be held responsible if drug peddling occurs in their jurisdiction.

"Until now, we had been giving warnings to officers. If policemen are found to be involved in illegal activities, no further warnings will be given. Action will be taken without delay," he explained.

On the Anekal police inspector's claims that he paid a bribe of Rs 80 lakh to the local MLA, Parameshwara said he had asked for a report and promised action. "If he alleges wrongdoing against an MLA, why was no action taken so far? Once the report is received, action will be taken immediately, he said.

According to Parameshwara, the recruitment of 545 police sub-inspectors has already been completed. In the state, 10,000 to 15,000 constable posts remain vacant. He said he had given instructions on how recruitment should proceed and issued detailed guidelines after discussions.

Asked about the vote deletion allegations in the Aland Assembly constituency, Parameshwara said no Special Investigation Team (SIT) had been formed and added that he needed to discuss the matter with the chief minister.

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CM trying to divide Vokkaliga community, says Ashoka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly R Ashoka on Friday accused the Congress government and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of using the Social and Educational Survey as a ploy to divide the Vokkaliga community, and weaken Hindu identity.

R Ashoka

Ashoka's remarks assume significance given that the Social and Educational Survey is slated to start on September 22. Interacting with journalists on the sidelines of the BJP's 'Chintan Shibira', Ashoka said, "Siddaramaiah is trying to fragment Hindu caste identities."

Expressing concern over reports of categorising members of the community under 'Vokkaliga Christian' and 'Vokkaliga Muslim' categories, Ashoka said, "Leaders from the community, cutting across party lines, and seers, will meet in Bengaluru to discuss this. Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy will also participate in this meeting."

Citing the inclusion of 47 new Christian castes and the attempts to split the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, Ashoka said, "The Congress is not trying to divide only the Vokkaliga community, but this is part of a larger ploy to divide Hindus. Siddaramaiah seems to be guided by Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in this endeavour."

The LoP said that the British colonisers and Muslims, who ruled India for centuries on end could not divide the Hindu community. "Now, CM Siddaramaiah is trying to divide Hindus by introducing new caste nomenclatures," said Ashoka.

Muslims asked to identify as a caste during socio-edu survey

Members under Category 1 told to specify sub-castes

CASTE CENSUS CONUNDRUM

SALEEM AHMED
Govt Chief Whip

"It was decided that during the survey our members should identify "Islam" as religion, "Muslim" as caste, and specify sub-castes wherever applicable.

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Top Muslim leaders have decided that their community members must identify themselves as a 'Muslim' caste under the religion of 'Islam' during the Social and Educational Survey starting September 22. This was decided at a meeting chaired by Minority Welfare Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan held late Thursday night.

The meeting also had Haj Minister Rahim Khan, Government Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed, Chief Minister's Political Secretary Naseer Ahmed, retired IAS officer L K Atheeq, MLA Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan, Bengaluru Jamia Masjid's Imam Maulana Maqsood Imran Rashadi among others.

"We have asked all our community members to participate," Saleem Ahmed told *DH*. "It was decided that our members should identify 'Islam' as religion, 'Muslim' as the caste and specify sub-castes wherever applicable." he said.

Identifying as a 'Muslim' caste will help the community retain its Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation.

The 'Muslim' community in Karnataka comes under Category-2B with a 4% reservation. Sub-castes like Pinjara and Nadaf come under Category-1, which also has a 4% reservation.

As per the junked 2015 Social & Educational Survey, there were 76.99 lakh Muslims.

The Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission had recommended hiking reservation for the 'Muslim' community under Category-2B from 4% to 8%.

In the previous survey, a total of 59 lakh Muslims identified themselves as just 'Muslims', making them the second-largest bloc after the SC/STs in the state. The remaining chose to enumerate themselves using different nomenclatures: Attari, Baghban, Chapparband, Darji, Dhobi, Irani, Johari, Kalaigar, Moghal, Pattegar, Phool Mali, Rangrez, Sipaayi, Takankar, Teli and so on.

The 2015 survey also found 99 sub-castes among Muslims. Among the sub-castes, the Shaik Muslims were enumerated as the largest with a population of 5.5 lakh, followed by Sunni Muslims at 3.49 lakh.

Saleem Ahmed said Muslims must specify sub-castes as many of them are based on professions. "If those Muslims who come under Category-1 don't specify the sub-caste, then they may be put under Category-2B," he said.

Muslims were categorised under OBC in 1994 based on the Chinnappa Reddy Commission's report. The previous BJP government decided to scrap the 4% quota for Muslims, arguing that the Constitution did not allow religion-based reservation. The decision, however, was not seen through after it was challenged before the Supreme Court.

The ruling Congress, however, has argued that Muslims have reservation based on backwardness as a class, not religion. The 2015 survey found that Muslims were the most backward community in terms of livelihood.

Cong leader targets govt over survey 'confusion'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Senior Congress leader V R Sudarshan on Friday publicly attacked his own party's government for not resolving "confusions" surrounding the upcoming Social and Educational Survey, while also blasting the backward classes commission saying it should have used common sense.

Sudarshan

Sudarshan was speaking at the 110th birth anniversary of former chief minister D Devaraj Urs in Ramanagara.

"This (survey) should have benefitted people and helped the government politically. Why is there so much confusion? It's the government's responsibility to clear the confusion," Sudarshan, a former Legislative Council chairperson, said as he addressed Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar who was on the dais.

"The backward classes commission should have common sense. Matters concerning caste and religion are sensitive," Sudarshan, who belongs to the Ganiga (OBC) community, said.

Speaking to reporters later, Sudarshan said Hindus who have converted to another religion should stop identifying with their original caste. He was referring to nomenclatures like 'Brahmana Christian', 'Kuruba Christian', 'Vokkaliga Christian', 'Lingayat Christian' and so on.

"A person who has converted can't use Hindu (caste) names. Caution must have been exercised on this," Sudarshan said.

Sudarshan added that the government still had time until September 22, when the survey is scheduled to start, to clear confusion. "Nobody is asking for the survey to be postponed. The survey is essential for social justice. But confusions must be resolved," he said.

BJP urges all communities to enter religion as 'Hindu' in upcoming survey

BENGALURU, DHNS

Ahead of the state-wide Socio-Education Survey slated to start on Monday, the BJP on Friday urged all communities to declare their religion as 'Hindu' regardless of their caste and sub-caste. A resolution to this effect was adopted at the conclusion of the two-day 'Chintan Shibra (brainstorming camp)'.

"In the religion column, ensure that your entry is 'Hindu'. However, people are free to enter the names of their respective communities in the caste and sub-caste columns," said Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra.

The Karnataka BJP chief admitted that his father and former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, and other leaders, had once signed a petition seeking the status of a separate religion for the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community. "I am not denying this fact," said Vijayendra.

He pointed out that both the UPA government in 2013 and the NDA government in 2018-19 had pointed to the lack of a Constitutional provision to create or recognise a new religion. "Irrespective of what opinions any senior leader may have, the BJP's stand is that the entry in the religion column must read 'Hindu'," said Vijayendra.

The survey was being used by the Congress government to distract the public from its failures, said Vijayendra. Accusing the Congress of using the Caste Census as a diversionary ploy for the last two-and-a-half years, he added, "The BJP had rejected the Kantharaj Commission report citing technical flaws. The Congress discarded it only after Rahul Gandhi asked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to do so."

Accusing Siddaramaiah of stirring up confusion in the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, Vijayendra reminded the former that the ploy had backfired during his previous term. "The current census includes 47 new Christian castes, which is aimed at promoting religious conversion," said the Karnataka BJP chief.

Rasta Roko demonstration

Meanwhile, to protest poor infrastructure in the state, the BJP will hold a 'Rasta Roko' demonstration on September 24. This will involve blocking roads in all Assembly constituencies for one hour, he said.

The BJP will also protest the state government's failure to compensate farmers for the crops they have lost to heavy rain. "Leaders will soon tour the state and interact with farmers," said Vijayendra.

D'sthala: SIT documents searches and mahazars

MANGALURU, DHNS: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case on Friday documented the findings from the searches and mahazars conducted on Wednesday and Thursday.

According to SIT sources, doctors have given a prima facie opinion that the skulls and bones recovered during the searches on September 17 and 18 at Banglegudde, near the Nethravathi bathing ghat, belonged to men. Experts are expected to carry out further examination to confirm more details.

The court has scheduled September 23 for the complainant-witness, who is currently in judicial custody, to record his statement. He has already recorded his statement once. Meanwhile, SIT sources said that search and seizure operations have been suspended for now and will resume only if required.

On Friday morning, Gram Panchayat vice-president Srinivas Rao and former member Keshav Gowda visited the SIT office in Belthangady. Officials reportedly collected information from them regarding the burial of bodies in the village.

When Belthangady police went to serve a notice to activist Mahesh Shetty Thimarody on Friday, he was not at home. The police pasted the notice on the wall of his house.

The notice directs Thimarody to appear before the police on September 21 in connection with an FIR registered against him under various sections of the Arms Act, following a complaint by the SIT.

During a search conducted at Thimarody's house on August 26, the police had recovered one firearm and two talwars. Subsequently, a case was registered at Belthangady police station.

HC notice to govt over PILs against caste census

HC notice, from Page 1

The petitioners said section 9 (1) of the Backward Classes Commission Act 1995 only empowers the commission to conduct surveys on social and educational status of backward classes, in order to identify their backwardness in those fields. Hence, the orders for conducting a survey of all castes are beyond the jurisdiction of the commission.

In specific contentions, the Brahmana Mahasabha said the Brahmin caste has been subdivided into several entities in the caste list in the survey handbook and that the questionnaire is misleading. The handbook lists a total of 1,561 castes without showing the difference between the main caste and its sub-castes, the petitioner said.

According to the petition, the handbook has created new castes such as Brahmin Christians, Vyasa Brahmana Christians etc., which are without any basis. The petition prayed for declaration that a survey based on caste is in contravention of the Backward Classes Commission Act, 1995.

The Rajya Vokkaliga Sangha stated that a survey to enumerate nearly seven crore individuals within 15 days itself is arbitrary and unscientific. The petition said that the BC commission has inflated sub-castes into separate castes, expanding the list from 1,400 to 1,561 in an arbitrary and politically motivated manner.

"The survey methodology substitutes statutory house-listing with reliance on electricity meter numbers and geo-tagging, and proposes unlawful linkage of caste particulars with Aadhaar, ration cards and phone numbers which is violation of the right to privacy under Article 21 as recognised in the Justice K S Puttaswamy case of the apex court," the petition said.

In their petitions, the members of the Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha stated the number of sub-castes under the category of Veerashaiva-Lingayats has been inexplicably increased from 75, as recorded in the earlier report of the BC commission, to 135 in the present handbook.

Once the numerical data of each caste is formally notified, it will inevitably give rise to several adverse and immediate consequences, including "quota wars" and "politics of appeasement", they alleged.

CM firm, caste survey set to...

Caste survey, from Page 1

Earlier in the day, Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala met Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. They discussed the caste census, and Surjewala is said to have asked the government to make sure there is no confusion in the way the survey is carried out.

On Thursday, Shivakumar, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, Labour Minister Santosh Lad, Backward Classes Welfare Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi and others met members of the Backward Classes Commission and raised several questions.

However, the commission had clarified that all the caste names being disputed in public had been added during the tenure of the H Kantharaj Commission, and not now.

An elderly man carries a baby to safety after an Omni gets trapped in the floods near an underpass on Chikkaballapur-Manchanabele road on Friday. Many parts of Chikkaballapur district received sharp showers in the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. DH PHOTO

Overnight rain brings joy and misery to Chikkaballapur dist

BENGALURU, DHNS

Incessant rain has brought both joy and misery together in Chikkaballapur district. Heavy showers on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, caused waterlogging in farms and on roads in several parts of the district, including the Chikkaballapur town.

On the bright side, the copious rain filled waterbodies bringing cheers to farmers of the parched district.

The overnight rain breached lakes and tanks causing waterlogging in the low-lying areas of Chikkaballapur. Several vehicles were stuck in waist-high water at Vapasandra underpass.

The vehicular movement on Chikkaballapur-Manchanabele road was severely affected.

Several vineyards and horticulture crops, including vegetables and flowers, were completely submerged near the underpass.

The Uttara Pinakini river is in spate. The river water has reached Kindi reservoir in Gauribidanur taluk. The Srinivas Sagar and Chitravathi reservoir in Bagepalli taluk have come alive with copious inflows.

A British-era bridge on a state highway goes under the flood waters of Doni river near Talikot, Vijayapura district, on Friday.

Up north, the British-era bridge on the state highway near Talikot, in Vijayapura district, has gone under the floodwaters of Doni river.

The traffic on the highway was stopped for the entire day on Friday.

With the incessant rain submerging the farmlands, the standing cotton, green pigeon peas (togari) and sunflower started rotting due to high amount of moisture.

Flood scare in Bhima basin

Unyielding showers have affected normal life in Chadchan taluk of Vijayapura district. The road connectivity to Maharashtra has been cut off after a bridge across Kanakanaal stream caved in. The swollen Bhima river has submerged eight bridge-cum-barrages in the taluk. Over one lakh cusec of water is being added from heavy discharges from Maharashtra dams, including Ujani reservoir. The Bhima river has flooded acres of crops along its course in Kalaburagi and Vijayapura districts.

The seers of Veerashaiva-Lingayat mutts, political leaders and the office-bearers of Akhila Bharat Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha seen at the Unity convention at Nehru Grounds in Hubballi on Friday. DH PHOTO

Unity meet leaves religion decision to Veerashaiva-Lingayats' discretion

Seers, Mahasabha chant unity mantra at Hubballi convention

HUBBALLI, DHNS

The 'Veerashaiva-Lingayat Unity Convention', organised by Akhila Bharat Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha and seers from different mutts, suggested the community members to exercise their discretion while mentioning their religion in the socio-economic survey (caste census).

The convention, however, urged the community members to mention Veerashaiva-Lingayat in the caste column.

Attended by the pontiffs of both Virakta and Panchapeeth mutts, and political leaders, the convention asked the community members to mention their respective sub-castes. Both seers and political leaders stressed the need for unity in the community while lamenting that it was divided in recent years, though Veerashaiva and Lingayat are the same in tradition.

Gurusiddha Rajayogindra Swami of Moorusavir Mutt announced the decision of the Mahasabha and the convention.

Prasannarenuka Veerasomeshwara Rajadeshikendra Shivacharya Swami of Rambhapuri Mutt advised the Mahasabha to consult legal experts as mentioning something other than recognised religion would not be considered now. Instead of creating a new religion, let us strengthen the existing one and be united, he said.

Mahasabha secretary general and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre stated that a united voice is essential for getting the religion status for Veershaiva-Lingayat and for the welfare of all its sub-sects.

Belgaum MP Jagadish Shettar said all confusions in the caste columns of the socio-economic survey should be cleared. "Mahasabha has already said Veerashaiva-Lingayat is part of Hindu religion as the Centre has not given separate religion status for it. Understanding this, we have to decide what to write in the religion column," he said.

Haveri MP Basavaraj Bommai said that Veerashaiva-Lingayat is not yet added to six religions already recognised, but people's will would get victory in democracy. Stating that religion is not important in the coming socio-economic survey, he said the community can show its exact number and its condition through caste and sub-caste columns, he added.

Congress MLA Vijayanand Kashappanavar was of the strong opinion that Veerashaiva-Lingayat should be a separate religion, also charging that some vested interests are trying to divide the community.

Several seers lamented that the population of the community has come down due to wrong entries made in surveys and census without unity.

Fakira Dingaleshwar Swami of Shirahatti Fakireshwar Mutt stated that further decision under the Mahasabha would be taken in consultation with legal experts and leaders, and the convention's decision is that Veerashaiva and Lingayat are one and we are ready to fight against divisive forces.

N-capability will be 'available' under Saudi deal: Pak

Saudi deal, from Page 1

"Let me make one point clear about Pakistan's nuclear capability: that capability was established long ago when we conducted tests. Since then, we have forces trained for the battlefield," Asif said.

"What we have, and the capabilities we possess, will be made available to (Saudi Arabia) according to this agreement," he added.

Asif said the entry of other Arab countries in the mutual defence deal between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is not ruled out, adding that "doors are not closed" for such developments.

He said there was no clause in the deal that ruled out the entry of any other nation or that Pakistan could not sign a similar agreement with anyone else.

Asif further said it was not an "aggressive pact" but a defensive arrangement, similar to that of NATO.

Islamabad said the defence pact with Saudi Arabia was not against a third country, asserting that the pact reflects their commitment to boost defence cooperation and ensure joint security.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over South Interior and at many places over Coastal Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast Sept 20: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	26.2	20.6	01
Bidar	31	21.6	5.8
Vijayapura	30	21.5	5.4
Dharwad	28.2	NA	TR
Haveri	26	20.4	00
Kalaburagi	33	23	00
Raichur	30	22	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	27.8	23.1	01
Karwar	29.8	23.4	3.3
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.1	21.8	23.8

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	11
Bengaluru	29	19.9	71.2
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	31	21.2	00
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	31	21.2	00
Davangere	28.5	20.5	00
Hassan	28.1	19.8	00
Mysuru	31	21	03
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	28.8	19.4	42.4

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	33.8	24.6	07
Kolkata	36	28.4	00
Mumbai	30.6	25.8	02
Chennai	35.4	24.2	38
Pune	30.4	21.9	97
Hyderabad	32.1	21.8	25
Th'puram	34.1	24.8	00

K'taka CEO cooperating with CID in voter deletion case: EC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Election Commission on Friday said the Karnataka chief electoral officer (CEO) had been "providing continuous assistance, including any further information and documents" to the state CID in connection with the probe into the fraudulent attempt to delete nearly 6,000 votes in Aland Assembly constituency.

The EC insisted that it had "handed over all available information" to investigators. It said the CEO "handed over all available information" with the EC to the Kalaburagi superintendent of police on September 6, 2023.

The statement came a day after Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi accused Karnataka CEO Gyanesh Kumar of stonewalling the CID's request for information held by the poll body that could help identify culprits who sought the illegal deletion of around 6,000 votes in the state's Aland constituency.

The EC said 6,018 applications for deletion from electoral rolls in Aland were submitted, and only 24 were found to be genuine. Suspecting the genuineness of the rejected applications, an FIR was filed by the Electoral Registration Officer of Aland.

After Rahul, AAP turns up the heat on poll panel

Accuses EC of inaction over Delhi voter deletion

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's press conference on 'vote theft', the AAP stepped up pressure on the Election Commission, accusing former Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and his successor Gyanesh Kumar of failing to act on its complaints in January regarding the deletion of 42,000 voter names in the New Delhi constituency ahead of the Assembly elections.

Addressing a press conference, AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj cited an RTI response received by a person, Rishikesh Kumar, on September 9, saying that the EC has made it clear that "no action is pending" on complaints filed by then chief minister Atishi and party supremo Arvind Kejriwal.

Saurabh Bharadwaj

EC rejects charges

The Election Commission rejected the charges and posted on X the letter sent to Atishi, saying, "...The ECI had sent a detailed reply spanning 76 pages, including seven annexures with reports from the CEO/DEO, on January 13, 2025, to Atishi, the then Chief Minister of Delhi."

Bharadwaj alleged that the role of both Rajiv Kumar, who received the complaints, and Gyanesh Kumar was "suspicious", as neither took action on the matter. "Without doing anything on the complaints, the file has been closed. This is an organised racket. Our democracy is being looted," he claimed.

He said the EC refused to disclose the name of the person or authority probing their complaint, as well as file notings on action taken under the RTI, citing that the information had "no relationship to any public activity or interest".

The RTI response also said there was "no information available" on whether an FIR was filed, whether the matter was forwarded to any other department or the reasons recorded for not taking action, he said.

On Thursday, Rahul accused CEC Gyanesh Kumar of stonewalling a request from the Karnataka CID for information held by the poll body that could help identify those responsible for the illegal deletion of around 6,000 votes in Karnataka's Aland constituency.

Bharadwaj said that in the New Delhi Assembly constituency alone, 42,000 votes were deleted from a total of 1.48 lakh in one go in late 2024, with another 6,100 removed later. He also alleged that over the past 11 years, a "systematic conspiracy of vote theft" has been undermining democracy across the country.

"I want to tell the people of the country that what Rahul said was already said, with evidence, by Kejriwal on December 19, 2024, two months before the Delhi elections," he said, adding that both Atishi and Kejriwal had written multiple letters to the EC.

Cops force doc to leave emergency duty to treat SSP's mother in UP

LUCKNOW, DHNS: In a shocking incident reflective of abuse of power, cops in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah district allegedly forced a doctor on duty at the Emergency Ward in the district hospital, to leave his post and 'treat' the sick mother of the district police chief.

Reports said that four cops approached Dr Rahul Babu Rajput, who was on duty at the emergency ward in the hospital, on Wednesday night and asked him to accompany them to the SSP's house to attend his mother.

The doctor instead offered to send some other staff members to treat the mother. However, the cops became angry at his refusal and allegedly forced the doctor and a pharmacist to accompany them.

"They (cops) virtually dragged me to their vehicle...," Rahul Babu said.

The doctors and other staff members went on strike in protest against the incident and demanded action against the erring cops, bringing the health services to a complete halt. Senior health officials managed to persuade them to call off their strike. The reports said that the cops were sent to the police lines.

NSAs of India, Canada hold talks; discuss shared concerns

NEW DELHI, PTI

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has held talks with his Canadian counterpart, Nathalie Drouin, signalling another initiative to repair ties that came under severe strain following the killing of a Sikh separatist in 2023.

In the talks held in New Delhi on Thursday, Doval is learnt to have flagged India's concerns over activities of pro-Khalistani groups operating from Canada.

"The NSA of Canada held talks with our NSA. I think it happened yesterday. This is part of the regular bilateral security consultations that happen between the two countries," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday.

It was also an opportunity and occasion for the NSAs to follow up on the discussions that took place between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart, Mark Carney, in Kananaskis, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Alberta in June, Jaiswal said.

People familiar with the talks between the two NSAs said issues relating to shared security concerns figured prominently in the discussions.

The talks between the two NSAs came three weeks after India and Canada appointed envoys to each other's capitals.

While India named seasoned diplomat Dinesh K Patnaik as the next high commissioner to Ottawa, Canada appointed Christopher Cooter as its new envoy to New Delhi.

Cooter has already arrived in New Delhi.

Jaiswal also referred to recent threats to Indian officials in Canada and said it is the Canadian government's responsibility to provide security to Indian diplomatic establishments.

Op Sindoor heralded new kind of warfare: CDS

RANCHI, PTI: Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, said Operation Sindoor heralded a "new kind of warfare", and ensured that India beat Pakistan decisively in every escalation during the strike.

Unlike traditional warfare, this was fought on land, in air and sea, electromagnetic space and cyber domains, where the adversary was seen only through the help of satellite and electronic images or signal intelligence, he said.

The top military officer also said the first strikes during the operation were conducted at 1 am to avoid civilian casualties across the border.

"It was a new kind of warfare... Till now, we have assumed victory in terms of capture of territory, the number of equipment destroyed, or the number of prisoners of war you have captured or soldiers you have killed...These were associated with traditional ways of fighting warfare," Gen Chauhan said.

"One of the matrices of victory over here is the sophistication of our attack, which was demonstrated there... Precision strikes for long-distance targets during the night required special efforts... We beat Pakistan decisively in every escalation during Operation Sindoor," Gen Chauhan asserted.

He said the evolving character of warfare is now driven more by technology than the sheer number or territorial occupation.

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
PAPER DIVISION, MSIL House,
36 Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052
Phone : 080-22257649
No. MSIL/SD/001/08/2025-26 Dated:20.09.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE
(through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)
Tenders are invited for **Supply of Customized Computer Stationery with Security Features Under the Brand Name of "LEKHAK".** Last date and time for submission of Tender: **21.10.2025, 3.30 PM.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- General Manager (Paper Division)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Road Construction Department, Road Division, Daltonganj.
e-Procurement Tender Notice
e-Tender Ref No-8/RCD/Daltonganj/2025-26/849 Dated: 18.09.2025

1.	Name of Work	Strengthning-Widening/Reconstruction of 2 Lane with Paved shoulder Daltonganj ROB to North Koel Semra Mines From Km 0.00 to 15.150 Under Road Division Daltonganj for the year 2025-26
2.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 81,52,77,892.00 (Rupees Eighty One Crore Fifty Two Lacs Seventy Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Two Rupees) Only.
3.	Bid Security (Amount)	Rs. 81,52,779.00 (Rupees Eighty One Lacs Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Nine) Only.
4.	Time of Completion	18 Months
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	27.09.2025, 10:30 AM
6.	Last Date/Time of Online Bid Submission	18.10.2025, 12:00 Noon
7.	Date and Time of Bid opening	21.10.2025, 12:30 PM
8.	Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time	06.10.2025 , 15:00 PM
9.	Bid (Tender Fee & EMD) Submission Address	Cost of bidding document (for a non refundable fee) & Bid security as indicated shall be payable online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
10.	Name & address of officer Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, R.C.D., Road Division, Daltonganj.06562–225019
11.	E-mail Id	eercdmedini-jhr@nic.in
12.	Helpline number of e Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Note : Estimated amount may vary.
For further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department
Road Division, Daltonganj.
PR 362333 (Road) 25-26 (D)

Government of Karnataka
HAVERI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, DEVAGIRI-YALLAPURA, HAVERI-581110
(Autonomous Institution of Government of Karnataka)
ಹಾವೇರಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ದೇವಗಿರಿ–ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ, ಹಾವೇರಿ-೫೮೧೧೦
Website: https://himshaveri.karnataka.gov.in E-mail: tenders.hims.dme@gmail.com
ಸಂ: ಹಿಮ್ಸ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/16/2025–26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:18/09/2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Haveri Institute Of Medical Science, Haveri Invites Tender from eligible tenderers, for supply for Establishment, supply and commissioning of of Museum At Hims Haveri. The tenders shall submit tenders in two bid system procedures as per KTTp Act. The Tenders are required to submit two separate bids, one containing the Earnest Money Deposit and the details of their capability to undertake the tender which will be opened first and the second bid containing the price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered project. Tenderers can download tender documents from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.

1	Tender Number	DME/2025-26/IND1727
2	Tender Publish Date	18/09/2025
3	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	25/09/2025 10:30 AM At: HIMS Haveri
4	Tender Approximate Value	Rs.110.00 Lakhs
5	Last date to apply for tender through KPP Portal	Date :02/10/2025 4:30PM
6	Technical Bid Opening Date	Date : 03/10/2025 4:30 PM
7	Date of Document verification	Date : 09/10/2025 10:30 AM At: HIMS Haveri
8	Financial Bid Opening Date	It Will be Intimated
9	EMD Amount	Rs. 1,10,000.00/-
10	E-Procurement Portal Processing Fees	As Per https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in rules
11	Officer In Charge and Contact Details	Dean and Director, Haveri Institute Of Medical Sciences,Haveri ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 8660990320

Sd/-
Dean and Director,
Haveri Institute of Medical Sciences, Haveri.
Dipr/hvr/DIPR/403/2025-2026

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/Tr(Op)/C-S/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-310(5)/25-26/2856-58 Date: 19.09.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
KPTCL invites bid against the enquiry no: KPTCL/SEE/TR(Op)/S-Circle/EE(O)/AEE-2/25-26/EPR-13 Dt:04.09.2025 for "Providing new 11kV C&R Panel at 220/66/11kV GIS Koramangala and 66/11kV Adugodi Substations pertaining to Operation Division HSR Layout in the jurisdiction of Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, Bengaluru on Total Turnkey percentage tender basis"
The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink '**E Procurement KPTCL**' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.09.2025.**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.,)
Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560009.

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
बहादुर शाह जफर मार्ग नई दिल्ली– 110 002
Bahadur shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002
Phone : 011-23604200, 011-23604508
Advt. No.41/2025
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR, CONSORTIUM FOR EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATION (CEC), NEW DELHI.
UGC had invited online applications for the post of Director, Consortium for Educational Communication (CEC), New Delhi in the pay level of Rs.2,10,000/- (fixed) per month with a special allowance of Rs.11,250/- p.m. (plus usual allowance as applicable from time to time) which is equivalent to the Vice-Chancellor of a Central University for which the last date for filling up of online applications was 18.08.2025.
This is to inform that the last date for application has now been extended to 30.09.2025. Further details are available on the UGC website www.ugc.ac.in/jobs.
Secretary, UGC
CBC 21205/12/0008/2526

No. A-12023/01/2022-Estt.II
Government of India
Ministry of Science & Technology
Department of Science & Technology
ADVT. No. PST/03/2025-Estt.III
Applications are invited for filling up the '01' (One) post of **Library and Information Assistant** (in Pay Level-6 of the 7th CPC) in the Department of Science & Technology on Deputation (including short-term contract (ISTC)) basis. Eligible and willing candidates are required to first fill an online application on this Department's portal **https://recruitment.dst.gov.in/** using a valid email ID. This online portal for applying shall be available for a period of 45 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in Employment News / Rozgar Samachar. Thereafter, hard copy of the successfully submitted online application form, duly signed by the candidate, **along with attested copies of ACRs/ APARs for the last five years, duly attested on each page by an officer not below the rank of Under Secretary to the Government of India or an officer of equivalent rank, and a summary sheet of the ACR/APAR gradings received in these five years,** are to be mandatorily forwarded through proper channel so as to reach this Department by **Registered Post or by Speed Post** within 30 days (45 days for applicants from remote areas i.e. those in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Ladakh, Lahaul and Spiti District and Pangi Sub Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep) from the date of closure of the online portal. Applicants (otherwise eligible to apply) working in Organisations/Institutes that do not have the system of recording APARs/ACRs, need to furnish their work profiles and gradings of the last 05 years duly certified by their Head of organisations/Institute along with their applications through proper channel so as to reach this Department by **Registered Post or by Speed Post** within 30 days (45 days for remote areas) **from the date of closure of online portal.** For the application process and other general conditions and requirements, refer the detailed advertisement available on the Recruitment Cell webpage under the Administration & Finance section of our website **(www.dst.gov.in)**
Sd/-Under Secretary to the Government of India
CBC 36101/11/0006/2526

No- A-64/5/2020-Estt
National Human Rights Commission
Manav Adhikar Bhawan, 'C' Block, GPO Complex,
INA, New Delhi-110 023
Website: www.nhrc.nic.in
Notice
Engagement of Special Monitors in the NHRC.
The NHRC proposes to engage 'Special Monitors' in terms of the guidelines including terms & conditions available on the Commission's website **www.nhrc.nic.in (https://nhrc.nic.in/sites/default/files/Appl_for_eng_SM.pdf)**.
2. Eligible and interested candidates may share their details in the prescribed proforma to the Under Secretary (Establishment), NHRC by email [**nhrcestt@nic.in**] within 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Incomplete application or application received after the due date will not be considered.
Sd/- **(Mukesh Kumar)**
Under Secretary (Estt)
Tel: 011-24663278
CBC 53101/11/0005/2526

TIFR-CENTRE FOR APPLICABLE MATHEMATICS
Bengaluru-560065, India
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
(An Autonomous Institution under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and Deemed to be University)
Cancellation Notification
It is notified that the Advertisement Notification Advt. No. 3/2025 issued in Employment News issue dated 23rd August 2025 for filling up of Administrative Assistant B and Work Assistant stands cancelled due to unavoidable administrative reasons.
Sd/-
Administrative Officer E
CBC 48153/12/0004/2526

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, गोड्डा
(Email I.D- eebcdgodda@gmail.com / eengbcdgodda-jhr@nic.in)
शुद्धि–पत्र
एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि अपरिहार्य कारणवश **e-Tender Reference No:- BCD/EE/08/Godda/2025-26, Date-29.08.2025 PR No.-360784 Building(25-26)D** के द्वारा आमंत्रित ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट निविदा में निम्नलिखित को संशोधन किया जाता है :–

	पूर्व की तिथि / समय	संशोधित तिथि / समय
वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि / समय	दिनांक:– 18.09.2025 समय :– 11:00 AM	दिनांक:– 25.09.2024 समय :– 03:00 PM
बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि / समय	दिनांक:– 25.09.2025 समय :– 11:00 AM	दिनांक:– 07.10.2025 समय :– 03:00 PM
निविदा खोलने की तिथि / समय	दिनांक:– 26.09.2025 समय :– 12:00 PM	दिनांक:– 08.10.2025 समय :– 04:00 PM

शेष यथावत् रहेगा।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
भवन प्रमंडल, गोड्डा
PR 362313 Building(25-26)#D

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM No.38/2025
Kindly refer this office advertised tender no. 38254155 **opening date on** 18.09.2025 **published in advertised tender notice no. EPS/93/2025. The amendment made is as under:**

Tender No. & short Description	Tender Opening date	
	From	To
38254155 **Description** Poly Ring	18.09.2025	09.10.2025

Latest terms & condition and full information is available on website https://www.ireps.gov.in
(Sd.)
Principal Chief Material Manager
WCR/Jabalpur
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

DEPARTMENT OF STATE EDUCATION RESEARCH AND TRAINING
No.4, 100 Ft Ring Road, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085.
Phone No.: 080-26980100. E-mail: dpi.dsert-ka@nic.in,
Website: http://dsert.kar.nic.in
No: E-66367/DSERT/EDST/STDM/1/2025-ETC Dated: 19-09-2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK E-Procurement Portal only)
Director, Department of State Education Research and Training, Bengaluru is inviting e-tender (Tender No: **DPI/2025-26/SE0378**) from eligible agencies for **PROVIDING THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICE FOR OPERATING STUDIOs AT DSERT**. Last date for submitting e-tender is **03.10.2025 at 5.30 pm.** For more details please log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Director,
DSERT, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/2897/AAA/2025-26

Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department
Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Koppal.
Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com
No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2025-26/3213 Dated:18.09.2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-2,3&4 on E-procurement portal for 14 no of tender works pertaining to Koppal district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned work varies from **Rs.20.77 to 71.91 Lakhs.** The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through KPPP-portal only. **Two cover** tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.
For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website **KPPP-portal.** The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **20.09.2025.** Last date & time for receipt of tender is **30.09.2025 time 17.30 hours,** Pre bid meeting will be held on **25.09.2025 11.00 Hours,** Date & time for opening of technical bid **04.10.2025 time 11.00 hours,** date and time for opening of financial bid **06.10.2025 time 11.00** hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).
Sd/-Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation and
Ground Water Development
Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/360/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)
Chief Engineer(Ele)., Chitradurga Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga invites Tender for the following through e-Procurement portal in two cover system.

Enq No & Date	Particulars	Approx Amount put to tender	EMD amount	Contract period
CEE/CTAZ/SEE (O)/AEE-1/ 2025-26/FTNC/43 Date:15.09.2025	Providing 51 numbers of temporary manpower services to Fast Track New Connection Cell (FTNC) (38 Nos of Project Engineer / FTNC Co-ordinators, 10 Nos of Data Entry Operators (DEOs) and 03 nos of Receptionist) through an outsource agency to various C,O&M Sub-divisions of Davanagere & Tumkur circle in CTAZ, BESCOM for a period of one year.	Rs.1,41,53,495/-	Rs.2,12,303/-	12 months
CEE/CTAZ/SEE (O)/AEE-1/ 2025-26/ SWEEPER/44 Date:15.09.2025	Providing 75 numbers of Sweepers on temporary basis through an outsource agency to various offices of Chitradurga Zonal jurisdiction, BESCOM for a period of one year.	Rs.1,75,93,180/-	Rs.2,63,898/-	12 months

Time Schedule: 1) Bid document available on e-portal **22.09.2025 @ 17:00 Hrs** onwards. 2) Pre bid meeting **03.10.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs.** 3) Last date for submission of queries **08.10.2025** upto **17:00 Hrs.** 4) Last date for submission of bid document **21.10.2025** upto **17:00 Hrs.** 5) Date and time of opening technical bid **23.10.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs.**
The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP portal from the website **kpppusers@karnataka.gov.in.** on or after **20.09.2025.** Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. All the payments such as tender processing fee, EMD etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further any clarification contact help desk **080-68948777** and **080 46010000** Or E-mail: **hphelpdesk.blr@rteservices.com**
For any BESCOM related Complaints Call: 1912
Please Download BESCOM Mitra Mobile App
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Electy),
O & M Zone, BESCOM,
CHITRADURGA

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. ELD-125-WC-OT-11A-25, Dated 15.09.2025. E-tender Notice is invited by the Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Howrah Railway Station, Howrah-711101 against Tender No. **ELD-125-WC-OT-11A-25** for the following works: **Name of the work with its location:** Replacement of Jumper for Isolator and Drop Jumper in Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. **Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 3,00,78,131.50. **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil. **Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited :** ₹ 3,00,400.00. **Completion period of the work:** 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of LOA. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 10.10.2025 at 15.00 hrs. **Opening of tender:** Tender will be opened at any time after closing of tender. Tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/ description /specification of the tenders and submit their bid online. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.
HWH-301/2025-26
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

LOOKING TO BUILD, BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY
Please refer Classifieds on Sunday

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Between half-truths and denials

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has made a series of grave allegations about "vote theft" in Karnataka. First, it was Mahadevapura, where, sometime ago, he charged that more than one lakh fraudulent entries were on the rolls. Now it is Aland, where he claims thousands of voters were deliberately deleted. Independent verification confirmed some irregularities in Mahadevapura, lending credence to his concerns. But the Election Commission (EC) responded bizarrely, asking him to swear an oath under an irrelevant provision of law rather than investigating the charges. This was a clear dereliction of duty by an institution tasked with conducting free and fair elections.

In the case of the Aland Assembly constituency, however, Gandhi's claims falter. He alleged that over 6,000 voters were sought to be deleted through a coordinated, software-driven operation targeting Congress supporters. The EC has clarified that only 24 deletions were genuine, not thousands, and that all relevant information, including IP addresses and details of objectors, had been handed to investigators. Here, Gandhi appears to have exaggerated his case. But exaggeration does not erase the seriousness of the malpractice that has been detected. That even a small number of deletions were filed using external mobile numbers and suspicious methods raises legitimate questions. Was this part of an organised, technology-driven operation? If so, could this have been replicated in other constituencies on a bigger scale? This requires a thorough, independent probe.

The 'vote theft' allegations need stronger follow-through, and the EC must stop deflecting

Gandhi also errs in his political posturing. He maintains that his duty is only to "lay out the facts" and not to save democracy. This hit-and-run approach weakens his credibility. If the EC is indeed stonewalling, he has the option – and the responsibility – to approach the courts. The Congress's argument that the law shields Election Commissioners from legal scrutiny is misleading. Immunity applies to officials personally, not to the larger question of electoral malpractice, which remains open to judicial review. The EC too has much to answer for. By dismissing Gandhi's charges without demonstrable rigour and by resorting to deflections rather than transparent engagement, it has undermined public trust. An institution that should be above suspicion has, instead, fuelled doubts about its independence. Ultimately, the protection of democracy cannot rest on rhetorical charges from politicians or evasive replies from regulators. Gandhi must pursue his allegations through proper legal and institutional channels, while EC must shed its defensiveness and investigate with transparency. In the battle for electoral integrity, half-truths and bureaucratic resistance are equally dangerous. India's democracy deserves better from both its political leaders and constitutional guardians – accountability that goes beyond partisan point-scoring to genuine institutional reform.

Parties should not be above POSH Act

The Supreme Court's dismissal of a petition seeking to bring registered political parties under the ambit of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act 2013 falls short of a full appreciation of the issues relevant to the case. The ruling was on an appeal against a Kerala High Court judgement, which held that political parties are under no compulsion to establish Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) under the law because there is no employee-employer relationship within parties. This is based on a literal reading of the law and misses its spirit. The Court said that making the law applicable to political parties "would open a Pandora's box and become a tool for blackmail." Strangely, the Court cited this possibility as a reason for not delivering justice. There is nothing wrong with the prospect of a flurry of sexual harassment cases – if they are without basis, there are laws to deal with them. The chance of misuse of a law is no reason for not having it.

The Court said political parties are not workplaces within the definition of the law because their members are not employees. But the law is based on the Vishakha judgement, which obligates institutions to protect women from harassment, irrespective of their employment status. The Act says that it applies to a "woman of any age, whether employed or not", who is subjected to sexual harassment. Political parties are voluntary associations of individuals, but they have membership rules, codes of conduct, and hierarchies. There is no legally valid work contract, but there is much in the functioning of a party that makes it a workplace. Members work to further the parties' interests; essentially, they function in a work environment. There is a power relationship in parties, similar to the power relationships in government, corporate, and other workplaces. That calls for a clear, defined, and mandatory mechanism to deal with sexual harassment.

The argument that political parties fall outside the definition of 'workplace' is fundamentally flawed

Complaints of sexual harassment are not uncommon in political parties. It is known that they are not always handled in line with the complainants' interests. Most parties have patriarchy entrenched in their attitudes and working. Among political parties, only the CPM has established an ICC with external members to handle complaints of sexual harassment. A strong safety mechanism is also imperative to encourage more women to enter politics. The Court suggested that parliament could amend the law to make it applicable to political parties. However, parties are unlikely to take the recommendation forward.

BEYOND THE DASHBOARD

Why India's nonprofits must embrace data culture

Data is evidence – it will shape social action in the digital age. Resisting it risks inefficiency and irrelevance

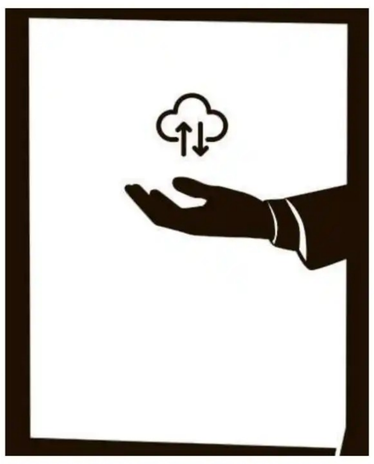
SAMAR VERMA AND ANNAPOORNA RAVICHANDER

At a time when misinformation and deepfakes distort public discourse, data and evidence assume a special significance not only to design better policies but also to build public narratives and strengthen democratic outcomes. As programme lead and comms specialist with multi-donor global programme The Think Tank Initiative for Asia, the authors have seen how disciplined use of evidence can transform both institutions and their influence in public life. That is why the recent *State of the Sector Report on the Data Maturity of Social Purpose Organisations in India*, brought out by the Indian School of Development Management (ISDM), is both timely and urgent as India accelerates towards rapid digitalisation. From "nowcasting" models that promise real-time insights to government pushes for embedding digital practices in everyday life, the landscape is shifting quickly. But is the social sector ready?

The report's central finding is sober. Using a comprehensive mapping of data-readiness, it surveys 360 Social Purpose Organisations (SPOs) across the country. The study reveals that the sector's average data maturity stands at a modest 48 out of 100. Nearly 70% of organisations sit in what the researchers call the "emerging" or "progressing" categories, while only 4% qualify as true experts. The implication is clear: most organisations recognise the importance of data, but very few have managed to embed it meaningfully into their everyday, cross-functional decisions.

The gap between aspiration and practice is visible in surprising ways: 84% of organisations report using data for programme design, yet only 28% apply it across the organisation, from HR and fundraising to finance. Many still depend on paper-based collection, with a third storing critical information in hard copies. Fewer than a quarter have reliable indicators aligned to programme goals, and only about 15% conduct regular data-security audits. What this means is that while the vocabulary of data has entered the sector's bloodstream, the deeper culture and systems needed to make it a living, breathing practice remain elusive.

The difference between an organisation that uses data well and those that do not is palpable. Consider one that employs dashboards to track outcomes to generate continuous feedback loops for improvement. Contrast this with smaller grassroots organisations that continue to rely on handwritten records, making institutional memory fragile and learning sporadic. One inspires trust among donors and communities alike; the other struggles to prove its impact despite years of service. The divergence lies less in technology and more in culture, governance, and people. Data maturity is not the same as buying software. It is about leadership



that champions evidence, teams that are trained and curious, and systems that safeguard the integrity and accessibility of information.

So where do funders come in? Too often, donors finance flashy dashboards or exploratory AI pilots without paying for the plumbing that sustains data practice. What is neglected are the basics: secure storage, governance routines, reliable indicators, and the unglamorous but essential staffing of data leads or embedded fellows. Even a small provision – 2 to 3% of every grant set aside for data capacity – could help organisations build the foundations for more ambitious technologies. This is not a call for endless resources but for smarter allocations that treat data as a strategic necessity rather than a compliance afterthought. This is important to improve the efficiency and sustainability of organisations in the not-for-profit sector.

Change is imperative

The report also offers cues on what collaborative roadmaps might look like. Funders and implementing organisations can jointly baseline partners on core dimensions of data maturity – from culture and mindset to analysis and visualisation – and agree on a handful of realistic milestones for the year ahead. Reviews should be framed as opportunities for collective learning rather than audits for compliance, thus encouraging experimentation rather than defensive box-ticking. Shared platforms and neutral help-desks could provide smaller organisations with templates, training, and vendor support that they would struggle to access alone. Even modest experiments, such as a few funders aligning on a common reporting schema, can significantly reduce duplication and free up scarce staff time for actual learning.

It is important to recognise the financial gradient. Organisations with annual expenditures of Rs one to five crore score an average of 73 on the data maturity index, compared to 57 for those spending under Rs one lakh. Resources matter because they allow investment in training, infrastructure, and systems. But this is not simply about money; it is about capacity. Smaller organisations need not be condemned to remain data-poor if funders and intermediaries are willing to underwrite shared services and build mentoring linkages between large and small institutions.

India's social purpose organisations stand at a delicate juncture. Communities they serve are increasingly digitally savvy, governments are embracing digital tools, and donors are demanding transparency. Yet, many organisations are caught between recognising the value of data and lacking the means to embed it in their DNA. Without change, they risk irrelevance, inefficiency, and declining trust. With change, they can sharpen interventions, attract more sustained funding, and deepen democratic accountability.

The report should be seen less as a scorecard and more as a mirror. It reflects not only where the sector is today but also what it must prioritise tomorrow. Building data literacy across staff, adopting simple governance measures, incentivising cross-functional forums, and creating sector-wide standards are not optional extras; they are the bedrock of credible social action in the digital age. Funders must take the first step by acknowledging that robust evidence is not a luxury but the foundation for impact.

Data maturity is not about technology. It is about trust, credibility, and accountability. And it is about the courage to see evidence as a guide rather than a threat. The question is whether we, as funders, practitioners, and citizens, are willing to act on it.

(Samar is a Gurugram-based economist and policy professional who has led global programmes with international funding agencies; Annapoorna is a Bengaluru-based communication specialist and trainer)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A sweet surrender in summer

Every mango season, my father's discipline gave way to indulgence

TATHAGATA NANDI

My late father, a retired high school teacher, was abstemious in taking food. As a type 2 diabetic, he strictly observed the diet chart. Besides, he would maintain a regular walking habit. He totally gave up sugar, called the white poison. Above all, he was a teetotaller and non-smoker. Naturally, everything was all right for a diabetic patient.

His doctor, an alumnus of the same school where my father taught for over three decades, took special care of him and was pleased with his adherence to treatment; my father's sugar level would stay in normal ranges for a considerable part of the year, and so prescription medicines remained the same.

But come summer, the situation would change. My calorie-conscious father's discipline would waver, and his diabetes would deviate. He would often suffer from hyperglycaemia; his medicine dosages underwent frequent recalibration to keep the sugar levels under control. All because he couldn't resist the allure of various mango varieties that came with summer.

My father allowed none from the family to set foot in the fruit markets; it was his forte. He would segregate the mango season into four stages from early summer to mid-monsoon as per the good harvest and availability of a variety of mangoes in the market. In the early summer, his bag would overflow with Baganpalli, Totapuri, and Payri mangoes. As the season progressed, he would indulge in juicy Dasheri, Chausa, and Amrapali. Later, he would prefer green-skinned Langra and Himsagar, and finally, Gulab Khas, Sundari, Lakshmanbhog, and Mallika or pure green Fazli. If my elder brother visited from Delhi during summers, his luggage would surely be heavier with a small crate of Alphonso, considered the king of mangoes for its sweetness and aroma.

Thus, in my father's delectable journey in the realm of the mango kingdom, my father's love for the king would take precedence over his diabetic concerns. Naturally, in every May, June and July, his sugar level would soar up exorbitantly. During his monthly routine check-ups in those months, he would appear before the doctor like an erring student.

The doctor would advise my father to limit his mango intake to 50-70 grams per day, but he would promise to comply only to break his promise the following summer. Anticipating the excessive calorie intake, the doctor would increase the medication dosage as a precautionary measure.

Despite the challenges, my father savoured the mango season to the fullest, and his joy was palpable. His love for mangoes was a delightful aspect of his personality, and it brought him immense pleasure every summer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lack of transparency hurts EC's credibility

Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's repeated allegations of fraudulent deletion and addition in voters' lists in Karnataka and Maharashtra ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, backed by verifiable details, are too serious for the Election Commission to dismiss as "baseless" without a credible probe. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar swiftly dismissed these allegations after Gandhi's press conference, where he claimed 6,000 votes belonging to marginalised groups and Congress supporters were attempted to be deleted from Aland constituency in Karnataka using centralised phones and software from outside the state. The EC has been accused of not cooperating in the investigation, despite it being conducted at the Commission's behest. The EC's reluctance to act transparently hurts its image as a custodian of the electoral process. The BJP should also be concerned about electoral purity instead of defending the Commission's inaction and attacking the Congress for raising legitimate issues.

S K Choudhury, Bengaluru

Probe allegations

The Election Commission's dismissive response to Rahul Gandhi's allegations of vote theft is concerning, as these accusations require a detailed study to ensure the democratic exercise of voting is foolproof and transparent. The EC must assure the nation of its impartiality in conducting elections, rather than appearing to act as a spokesperson for the ruling party. It's also puzzling why BJP spokespersons are muddying the debate, as it's the EC's responsibility to clear itself of any wrongdoing. The EC should prioritise transparency and accountability to maintain public trust in the electoral process.

V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Support ASHA workers

The recent directive for ASHA workers to raise awareness about the caste census is commendable. By visiting households and explaining the survey, they can ensure wider participation and accurate data collection. The government, on its part, must continue to support these frontline workers with fair compensation and training to make the process smooth and inclusive.

Deboshmita Trivedy, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

We will correct all the confusion and conduct a social and educational survey. We will provide social justice within the legal framework.

D K Shivakumar, Karnataka Dy CM

I'd be wary of simple solutions to complex problems.

Jeb Bush

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Who'll pay for the wrecked lives?

Justice eludes Kerala's fishers as owners of sunken vessel MSC Elsa 3 cap their liability at a paltry payout

K A SHAJI

The gulf between corporate indifference and State expectation could not be more stark – and Kerala's coastal communities are caught in the middle.

MSC Elsa 3 sank off Kerala's coast on May 25, 2025, carrying over 643 containers, including hazardous cargo, plastic nurdles, and tonnes of fuel. Its wreck turned the Arabian Sea into a floating graveyard of microplastics, chemical debris, and stranded cargo. On one side, the owners of MSC Elsa 3, registered through shell companies in Liberia, Panama, and Switzerland, announced that their liability for the disaster would be capped at a mere Rs 132 crore. On the other side, the Kerala government has filed a claim exceeding Rs 9,531 crore for environmental devastation, marine pollution, and economic losses to over one lakh fishing families. In between, tens of thousands of men and women whose lives, livelihoods, and dignity have been upended watch helplessly as the legal and corporate machinery grind on, largely indifferent to their suffering.

Along beaches from Alappuzha to Kollam, nets remain knotted with nurdles, engines corroded, and catches have collapsed. Families who once relied on the sea now see it as a threat, and the corporate announcement of a paltry liability fund adds insult to injury.

Invoking Section 352A of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, and the International Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, MSC Elsa 3's owners established a 'Limitation Fund' of Rs 132 crore to cover all claims. Human tragedy and ecological devastation are reduced to a neat number, shielding global assets while the sea exacts its ongoing toll. Catastrophe becomes a legal abstraction; suffering becomes optional.

For Kerala's coastal communities, this cap is a profound insult. Families sit on debris-strewn beaches, watching waves with a mixture of fear and resignation. Small cargo owners scramble to recover losses, sometimes attempting to detain sister vessels docking at Vizhinjam port in Thiruvananthapuram, only to confront the overwhelming asymmetry of legal power and corporate might.

The Kerala government's claim lays bare the scale of the disaster: Rs 8,626 crore for pollution-related damage, Rs 378 crore for environmental restoration, and Rs 526 crore for losses to fishers. Yet, even this robust demand collides with procedural contradictions. Victims must appear in court or hire legal representatives to lodge claims – a near-impossible task for tens of thousands scattered along 590 km of coastline, most of whom lack English proficiency, legal knowledge, or financial resources. Justice, ostensibly offered, is effectively denied.

The human cost of MSC Elsa 3 is visible at every turn. Families patch nets, repair engines, and wade back into contaminated waters, clinging to livelihoods that are steadily eroding. Clean-up operations involving over 600 personnel and 300 volunteers have recovered over 60 tonnes of nurdles, but thousands more remain. Oil slicks drift offshore, while dolphins, whales, and other marine life wash ashore, likely poisoned by microplastics and chemical residues. Fisheries markets have collapsed under fears of contamination. The sea, once life-giving, has become a vector of devastation.

The risk of a precedent

The fallout has a familiar imprint – global companies leveraging international conventions to minimise liability, states caught between commercial interests and citizen welfare, and communities left to navigate an alien legal labyrinth.

The exclusionary claims process compounds the injustice. Forcing families to petition courts individually guarantees that only a fraction will succeed, minimising corporate payouts while maximising human suffering. Civil society warns that this is deliberate: multinational shipping corporations routinely use procedural complexity to shield themselves from accountability, leaving local communities to bear the true cost.

Kerala's fisherfolk are being sacrificed at the altar of global commerce. Livelihoods and dignity are collateral damage in a battle between corporate calculation and state ambivalence. What is urgently needed is not rhetoric but action: simplified claims mechanisms, transparent environmental assessments, and a government willing to confront corporate law and international conventions with the authority of citizen welfare.

MSC Elsa 3 is no longer just a sunken vessel. It is a test of India's maritime governance, environmental accountability, and justice for vulnerable communities. If the state allows a multinational corporation to walk away after devastating its coasts, the precedent will be catastrophic: future disasters will be met with token payouts, communities abandoned, and ecosystems irreversibly damaged.

As waves lap against the shores, Kerala's fisherfolk wait – not for legal technicalities or corporate statements, but for justice measured in the restoration of life, livelihood, and dignity. The outcome of this struggle will define India's maritime and environmental accountability for years to come.

(The writer is a South India-based journalist who has chronicled rural distress and environmental struggles)

Power Tracks: Taking Trains to Frontiers

KALYAN RAY & AJITH ATHRADY
DH NEWS SERVICE

Within hours of putting Aizawl on India's railway map on September 13, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has made it clear that the tracks will go down deeper in Mizoram, just like its neighbour Manipur, where the plan is to take the railways to Moreh on the India-Myanmar border. He said that the Bairabi-Sairang railway line, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated, would be extended to the southern border of Mizoram, opening direct trade routes to Myanmar and Southeast Asia via Sittwe Port.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to connect the far-flung areas, from the Northeast to Ladakh and J&K, with railway lines for people's benefit and for uplifting the local economy. What was left unsaid is that such rail links would also boost the strategic posture of India in the areas close to its borders with China and Pakistan.

While road networks in the border areas in the northeastern region, J&K, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh have improved over the decades, the railway projects have often been slow due to difficult terrain, complicated engineering, harsh climate and mammoth cost.

Built at a cost of Rs 8,070 crore, the 51 km Bairabi-Sairang line that passes through 45 tunnels, 55 major bridges and 87 minor bridges is the second success of the Indian Railways after the 272 km Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link that includes engineering marvels, like the Chenab bridge, linking the Kashmir valley to the rest of the country.

"For the Northeast, 12 railway projects (8 new lines, 4 doubling) having a total length of 777 Km, costing Rs 69,342 crore have been sanctioned. Out of this 278 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of Rs 41,676 crore has been incurred up to March 2025," Vaishnaw said. In the current financial year, Rs 10,440 crore is being spent.

In Nagaland, the Molvom–Pherima stretch (14 km) is set to open by October 2026, followed by the Pherima–Zubza section (38 km) in December 2029, a milestone to mark rail connectivity to Nagaland's capital, Kohima.

In Manipur, Jiribam (close to Assam border)-Imphal line that will cut down the travel time to two hours from the existing 12 hours, is likely to be commissioned in 2028. The first two sections of the Murkongselek-Pasighat line in Arunachal are due to be operational by October 2025 and February 2026, respectively. The Indian Railway constructed around 1,700 km of rail lines in the northeastern region and hopes to complete another 200 km of railway lines construction by 2027 end.

The Murkongselek-Pasighat-Rupai railway line is one of the 14 strategic railway lines identified by the Ministry of Defence more than two decades ago. The Centre, in 2013, gave an assurance in the Parliament to complete the projects to make the movement of soldiers to border areas easier to deal with emergencies.

One of them, the Srinagar–Kargil–Leh project, was abandoned after a 2016–17 survey flagged low traffic projections. The proposed Jammu–Poonch line also remains stalled, with the Akhnoor-Rajouri link failing to clear the feasibility hurdles. There are also no immediate plans to survey a Ganderbal–Kargil link.

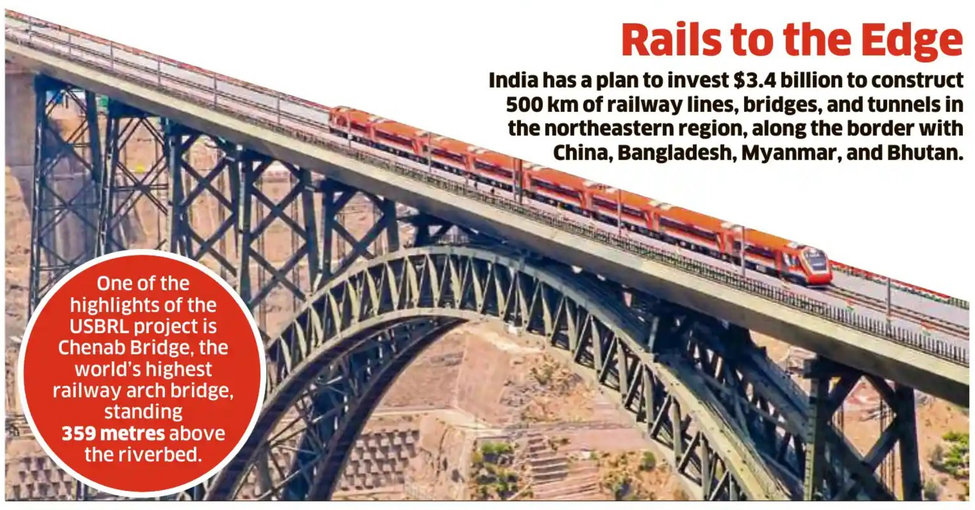
Instead, the government has prioritised the Banihal–Baramulla doubling (118 km) to handle growing traffic. Five new surveys – Baramulla-Uri, Sopore-Kupwara, Anantnag-Pahalgam, Avantipore-Shopian, and Banihal–Baramulla – are also underway. Despite the whopping Rs 1.31 lakh crore cost, the Bilaspur–Manali–Leh project (489 km) is on track. A 13 km extension beyond Leh is being planned. A detailed project report has been made for a 69 km new railway line to connect Kokrajhar in Assam with Bhutan.

On the other side of the Sino-Indian boundary, China plans to complete construction of its strategic Xinjiang-Tibet railway project by 2030, apart from exploring a cross-border railway link to Nepal. This should prompt India to expedite its strategic railway projects in its border regions.

(With inputs from **ZULFIKAR MAJID** and **SUMIR KARMAKAR,** DHNS)

Rails to the Edge

India has a plan to invest $3.4 billion to construct 500 km of railway lines, bridges, and tunnels in the northeastern region, along the border with China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bhutan.

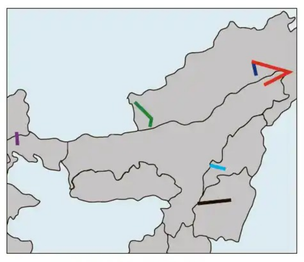


One of the highlights of the USBRL project is Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, standing **359 metres** above the riverbed.

June 6, 2025
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the last stretch of the **Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL),** after flagging off **Vande Bharat trains from Katra to Srinagar.**

September 13, 2025
- The PM inaugurated the **Bairabi-Sairang rail project in Mizoram,** linking the border state's capital, Aizawl, with the rail network of India.

RAIL PROJECTS IN THE INDIA-CHINA BORDER REGIONS



Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim)

378 km Bhalukpong-Tenga-Tawang rail line

227 km Pasighat-Tezu-Rupai rail line

26 km Murkongselek-Pasighat rail line, expected by February 2026.

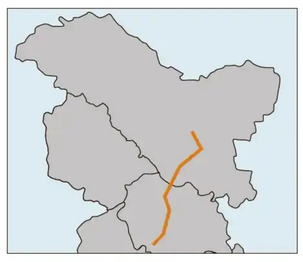
45 km rail line from Sivok (WB) to Rangpo (Sikkim), expected by Dec 2027

Other projects in NE:

The remaining half of the **111 km** Jiribam-Imphal new line in Manipur, expected by March 2028.

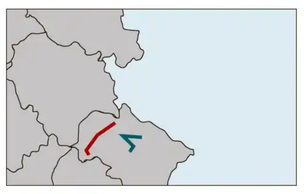
82.50 km Dimapur-Zubza line in Nagaland will be made fully operational by December 2029.

- 17 railway infrastructure projects (8 new lines, 1 gauge conversion and 8 doubling), of a total length of 1,253 km, costing Rs 20,466 crore in the northeastern region, were sanctioned as of April 1, 2025.



Western Sector (Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh)

489 km
Bilaspur–Manali–Leh line, survey completed, estimated cost Rs 131,000 crore. (Srinagar-Kargil-Leh line project dropped)



Central Sector (Uttarakhand)

131 km
Doiwala–Dehradun–Uttarkashi–Maneri Gangotri rail line

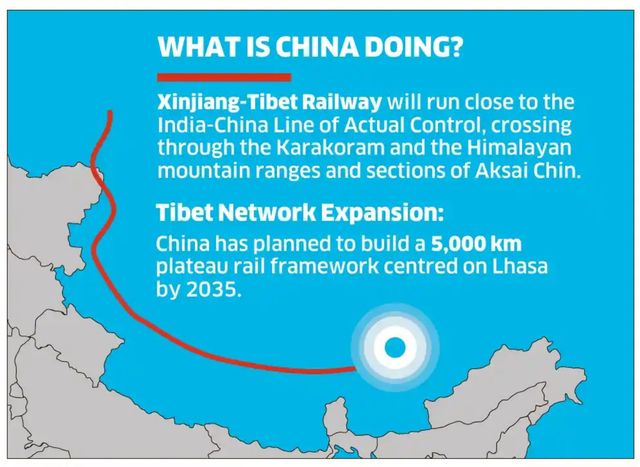
99 km Karnaprayag-Saikot-Soneprayag-Joshimath

- Rs 4,641 crore sanctioned for new railway projects in Uttarakhand.

WHAT IS CHINA DOING?

Xinjiang-Tibet Railway will run close to the India-China Line of Actual Control, crossing through the Karakoram and the Himalayan mountain ranges and sections of Aksai Chin.

Tibet Network Expansion:
China has planned to build a **5,000 km** plateau rail framework centred on Lhasa by 2035.



COMPILED BY **AJITH ATHRADY,** DHNS

Border infrastructure key to strategic deterrence

LT GEN HARINDER SINGH (RETD.)

The development of strategic infrastructure is the key to building India's deterrent posture and the assertion of its territorial and sovereign rights. India's northern borders have posed a challenge to its quest for achieving the desired levels of infrastructural connectivity, both for its people and its military. Several organs of the State have worked diligently to build the infrastructural network in the remote areas, but have failed to match up to the Chinese efforts in Tibet and Xinjiang, particularly in expanding the last-mile road and rail connectivity.

There are several reasons ascribed to this differential. Prominent amongst these have been our proclivity to tread with caution along the border areas, the paucity of resources and technology to cut through difficult geological formations, and environmental concerns about the fragility of the Indian Himalayan region. The concerns were valid at a time, but this must change now. The policy choices are stark and clear – ramp up the infrastructural deficit before it is too late to convincingly secure our borders and deter China from taking advantage of the differential.

There are a few aspects that inhibit us from gathering momentum to build a comparable posture along the Himalayas. First, India's policy makers need to ascertain the precise infrastructural differential vis-à-vis China along our northern borders. Only a fair assessment can help draw clarity on the magnitude and statement of the problem. Second, infrastructure development has to be multi-dimensional and multi-modal these days. All-weather road, air and rail links, communication and electricity nodes, water and oil pipelines, meteorological and space earth stations, and warehousing and billeting capacity fit into this definition. This requires a comprehensive State policy and agency to drive outcomes collaboratively. And third, it also necessitates looking beyond a BRO-centric approach, by allowing participation of private players, to usher in new ideas, technology and agile work practices.

India needs to take a cue from Chinese efforts in taming the Tibetan massif. Tibet's rail network today stands at 4,100 kilometres, while its road network is approximately 120,000 kilometres. China recently announced the building of a railway line between Hotan and Shigatse, spanning the northern edge of the Himalayas, while serving only half a million people. The project, estimated at RMB 400 billion, far exceeds the annual GDP of Tibet. While some might call it wasteful expenditure, it advances a few Chinese strategic objectives: it unlocks Tibet's vast mineral wealth, currently hindered by transportation costs, while binding Tibet deeply into its mainland economy. More importantly, however, it impacts India's security calculus and revives the salience of land power strategy.

Suffice to say, building border infrastructure in a quieter, more efficient, and more intelligent way is the key to strategic deterrence. Despite proactive efforts on the part of India's policymakers, key strategic projects suffered considerable time overruns. Creating a National Strategic Infrastructure Development Board, along the lines of the National Highway Authority of India, can help streamline the planning, resourcing and implementation of multi-modal projects along our sensitive northern borders.

[The writer served as Director (Operational Logistics and Strategic Movement) in the Indian Army]

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

The biggest black hole smashup in the universe

Physicists detected strongest gravitational waves yet, confirming Hawking's black hole area theorem, validating Einstein's relativity, writes Surendra Pai

The universe still holds its secrets, which it yields unexpectedly. Almost 10 years after the first detection of ripples in space itself, called gravitational waves, physicists have announced the strongest such signal yet.

Produced when two black holes in a distant galaxy spiralled into each other, the merger enabled researchers to test Albert Einstein's theory of gravity, general relativity (GR), in new ways. In particular, as reported in *Physical Review Letters*, analysis of the event confirmed a theorem derived by Stephen Hawking that a black hole's surface area can only grow and never shrink.

"That's such a fundamental, pure theorem of general relativity that to see it verified is really fantastic," says Clifford Will, a gravitational theorist at the University of Florida. "It's one of the things that allows you to say we are really looking at black holes."

The signal was detected on January 14 by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO), which comprises two L-shaped interferometers in Louisiana and Washington state. Laser light resonating along the interferometers' 4-km-long arms is used to detect passing gravitational waves, which stretch each arm by less than 1/100th the width of a proton.

Comparing the latest signal with models shows it was generated when distant black holes with masses 33.6 and 32.2 times that of the Sun spiralled into each other and merged.

The black holes had nearly the same masses as those that produced the first LIGO event, which was detected on September 14, 2015. However, since then, improvements to the LIGO detectors have made them three times more

sensitive. So, the new signal stood out far more clearly, with a signal-to-noise ratio of 80, which enabled researchers to examine it in unprecedented detail.

After a merger, the final black hole's event horizon—the boundary marking where gravity becomes so strong that not even light can escape reverberates fleetingly like a sharply struck bell. In this case, that "ring down" had a frequency of 247 cycles per second and lasted for about 10 milliseconds.

The main oscillation can have overtones of slightly different, generally lower frequencies that fade faster and are key to testing GR. According to the theory, a black hole is so featureless that it can be characterised by just two numbers: mass and spin. That implies the frequencies and decay rates of the overtones aren't independent, but must be related mathematically. By comparing an overtone with the primary ring-down tone, physicists can test the relationships predicted by GR.

The hard part is spotting an overtone, which can fade in less than a single cycle of oscillation. "Black holes don't ring, they thud," says Scott Hughes, a theorist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Other black hole mergers, including the first LIGO event, had offered hints of an overtone.

In the new event, the overtone stands out clearly, says Katerina Chatziioannou, a physicist and LIGO member at the California Institute of Technology. "This is definitive." Sure enough, the frequencies of the tone and overtone conformed to the predictions of GR.

One caveat is that LIGO identifies and characterises signals with the help of simulations that assume GR is correct—a possible source of bias. To avoid it, researchers ignored most of the signal and analysed just the ring-down. They could do that only because the signal was so strong. "That is what enables all of this," says Maximiliano Isi, a LIGO physicist at Columbia University. However, Frans Pretorius, a gravitation theorist at Princeton University, cautions that some amount of bias may still be baked into the analysis.

LIGO researchers then used the mass and spin of the final black hole to calculate the area of its event horizon, which is approximately 4 lakh square kilometres, roughly the size of Japan. Data from earlier in the event, when the initial black holes were spiralling together, revealed their mass, spin, and area as well.

The area of the final black hole exceeded the total area of the initial ones—even though the final object was less massive than the sum of the initial black holes, as some energy, and hence mass, radiated away in gravitational waves. That result jibes with Hawking's mathematical theorem, which says no matter how a black hole's mass and spin evolve, its area can only grow.

With further improvements to LIGO or future observatories, scientists should be able to detect multiple modes and overtones, and obtain a precise enough measurement to identify where an anomaly begins, Pretorius notes.

Of course, that depends on squeezing better performances out of LIGO. In June, the White House called for shuttering one of the LIGO stations as part of a plan to cut the budget of the National Science Foundation by 57%. Such a closure would dramatically reduce LIGO's sensitivity—and dampen hopes of hearing further black hole harmonies.

(The author is an academic)

DID YOU KNOW?

Documenting India's contribution to mathematics

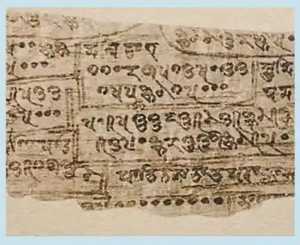
The discovery of zero as India's single biggest contribution to the world of mathematics is well known. But do you know that ancient Indian scholars knew about Pythagoras' theorem, the Sine Function, the Fibonacci Sequence and even derived the first exact formula for Pi, much before the West? Do you know that Gautam Buddha, before enlightenment, was a skilled number lover?

A group of mathematicians and Indologists has recently presented much such information and anecdotes, documented in ancient manuscripts, at a conference in Delhi to popularise India's lesser-known but fundamental contribution to mathematics as is currently known.

"The way we write our numbers today comes from India. It is perhaps India's greatest contribution to our daily lives. Any number, regardless of its size, can be written using 10 symbols. This is a vast improvement over Roman numerals," said Manjul Bhargava, a professor of mathematics at Princeton University and winner of the Fields Medal in 2014.

Apart from zero, Bhargava listed India's ten other equally fundamental gifts—and a few more—to the world of mathematics that travelled to Europe via the Arabian route and returned as Western mathematical concepts.

Take Baudhayana's Sulbasutra, for example. Major Vedic ceremonies and sacrifices used to be performed before the altars, the construction of which led to investigations in geometry. The results are reflected in the genre of texts known as Sulbasutras. In one of these texts, dated to the eighth century BCE, there was a formulation of the same theorem that was later ascribed to Pythagoras.



"The first place that we know of where the theorem is explicitly stated for a general triangle in the way we describe today, is Baudhayana's Sulbasutra," Bhargava said.

From the middle of the first millennium CE, Indic mathematics made advances, which proved pivotal for the development of the discipline. Successive generations of scholars built on, argued with and refined one another's work to accelerate insights in trigonometry and algebraic solutions.

In the seventh century, Brahmagupta formulated rules for the arithmetic of zero and negative numbers. A century later, Virahanka proposed an elegant solution on how to set up the poetic metres in Sanskrit poetry. The same solution became popular as the Fibonacci sequence after another 500 years.

From Panini's mathematics of language – the first example of a generative grammar of a natural language – to the seminal contributions made by Aryabhata, Bhaskara, Pingala, and Madhava, India has a rich history in mathematics, most of which was forgotten, he says. Madhava's exact formula for pi as an infinite series laid the foundation of calculus, discovered by the Kerala school of mathematicians.

Bhargava spoke at the India International Centre conference organised by India's top mathematicians. The conference was accompanied by a unique exhibition that displayed nearly 50 ancient mathematical manuscripts, besides showing a glimpse of the famous Bakshali Manuscript – a 3rd to 4th century Indian mathematical text written on birch bark - and other items depicting the evolution of Indian mathematics.

"We plan to take the exhibition to other cities like Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bengaluru as nobody in the current generation seems to know much about the rich history of Indian mathematics," Sudha Gopalakrishnan, founder director, National Mission for Manuscript, and one of the brains behind the conference, told *DH*.

- Kalyan Ray

Assamese icon Zubeen Garg dies in scuba diving tragedy

'Gone too soon': 52-year-old singer's death in Singapore shocks fans

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Zubeen Garg, the music icon from Assam who also found popularity in the Hindi film industry, reportedly died while scuba diving in Singapore on Friday.

The 52-year-old singer, musician, lyricist, actor and filmmaker was in Singapore to perform at the fourth edition of the Northeast Festival, which began on Friday.

According to a note from the event organisers, the incident occurred around 2.30 pm when Garg experienced breathing difficulties during a scuba diving session in the sea. "He was administered CPR and rushed to Singapore General Hospital. Despite efforts to revive him, he was declared deceased in the ICU," the note said. Zubeen is survived by his wife.

Confirming his untimely demise, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on X, "Today Assam lost one of its favourite sons. I am at a loss for words to describe what Zubeen meant for Assam. He has gone too soon, this was not the age to go."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also joined the people of Assam in mourning Zubeen Garg's death.

Since launching his music career with the Assamese album Anamika in 1992, Zubeen Garg went on to sing more than 38,000 songs in various languages. Most of his work, however, was in Assamese, Hindi and Bengali. His Assamese albums Mukti, Pakhi and Baahi gained immense popularity.

Zubeen Garg

Zubeen's national breakthrough came with the release of 'Ya Ali' from the film Gangster in 2006.

Effortlessly blending Indian folk, pop, classical and rock, Zubeen quickly became a star, especially among younger generations. Cultural nights during Assam's annual Rongali Bihu festival were considered incomplete without a performance by Zubeen. A gifted multi-instrumentalist, he could play several instruments and also made several hit Assamese films during a time when the regional cinema was struggling to survive.

"Zubeen's voice had an unmatched ability to energise people. Our future generations will remember him as a stalwart of Assam's culture," CM Sarma said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Zubeen Garg will be remembered for his rich contribution to music.

In a detailed statement issued later, Shyamkanu Mahanta, who heads the festival, said that Zubeen's manager informed them about the accident while the team was engaged in business meetings with Singaporean industrialists to attract investment to the Northeast.

"We later learned that a few members of the local Assamese community had taken him on a yacht visit, of which we had no prior knowledge," he said.

The festival was immediately cancelled.

BJP flays Cong for Pitroda's Pak remarks

NEW DELHI, PTI

The BJP demanded an apology from Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi on Friday over the party's overseas department chief Sam Pitroda's 'felt at home' in Pakistan remarks, branding those as 'anti-national'.

This came after Pitroda, pitching for a substantial improvement in India's relationship with its neighbours, reportedly said he "felt at home" in Pakistan during his visit sometime in the past.

Sam Pitroda

BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari termed Pitroda's comment an 'insult' to Indian soldiers and the people of the country, and alleged that the Congress leader had 'glorified' Pakistan at the behest of Rahul Gandhi.

"It is not Sam Pitroda's statement. It is the policy and intent of Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and the Gandhi-Vadra family. Earlier, Rahul Gandhi had also said that he wants to fight against the Indian State.... The Gandhi-Vadra family's heart lives in terrorist Pakistan," Bhandari said.

"The Gandhi-Vadra family should apologise to the brave soldiers of the country for Pitroda's statement," he said.

Bhandari said Pitroda's comment has made it clear that there is no place for 'patriotism in the Congress's policy and intent'.

'Shared history & roots'

Meanwhile, clarifying his stand in a post on X, Pitroda later said he only meant to emphasise shared history and people-to-people bonds and not to ignore the pain, or the grave challenges India faces from terror and geopolitical tensions.

He said if his words have caused confusion or hurt, he wants to clarify that his aim was never to belittle anyone's suffering or undermine legitimate concerns but to foster honest conversation, empathy, and a more grounded and responsible approach to how India sees itself and is seen by others.

"When I said that I often felt 'at home' visiting neighboring countries, or that culturally and socially we share roots," Pitroda said.

Likewise, he said when he challenged the 'Vishwaguru' narrative and said that it's a myth that India is always on everyone's mind, he was cautioning against overconfidence in image over substance.

Minister asks tractor-makers to pass on GST relief to farmers

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday urged tractor and farm equipment manufacturers to pass on the benefits of GST reductions to farmers from 22 September.

The Minister said that lower GST rates on farm equipment would lead to significant price cuts ranging from Rs 23,000 to Rs 63,000 across different tractor categories.

The GST Council has reduced rates on tractors and related equipment from 12% to 5%. This move, Chouhan said, will make farming equipment more affordable and reduce the cost of cultivation.

Chairing a meeting with representatives of farm equipment makers, Chouhan said the GST reduction would also make farm machinery at Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) cheaper, and rentals should come down accordingly.

The primary purpose of CHCs is to provide marginal and small farmers with access to equipment and machinery at subsidised hire rates.

The Minister noted that expected price reductions include Rs 41,000 for 35 HP tractors, Rs 45,000 for 45 HP tractors, Rs 53,000 for 50 HP tractors, and Rs 63,000 for 75 HP tractors. Compact tractors used in horticulture are likely to see a price drop of about Rs 23,000.

Plea seeks SC-monitored probe into Air India crash

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court for an independent probe under its "supervision and control" into the June 12 Air India crash in Ahmedabad, which claimed the lives of 260 people.

The petition was filed by Safety Matters Foundation, an aviation safety NGO founded by Captain Amit Singh. The plea sought a direction to make publicly available the complete data retrieved from the crashed Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner.

It also sought a direction to appoint independent professionals to monitor the probe, as the authorities' selective and incomplete disclosure of critical information, coupled with the premature attribution of pilot error while overlooking systemic faults, has resulted in a continuing violation of Article 21 and Article 14 of the Constitution.

It said the preliminary report issued by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is incomplete, selective, and lacking in transparency.

Faced racial bias: Father of Telangana youth shot dead in US

Alleges police cover-up, says authorities did not notify kin

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The father of 32-year-old Mohammed Nizamuddin, who was killed in a police shooting in California in the first week of September, alleged that his son had been facing racial discrimination both at his workplace and residence in the US.

Mohammed Nizamuddin

Mohammed Hasnuddin, a 65-year-old retired government teacher from Mahbubnagar, suspected attempts by the police in Santa Clara, California, to cover up the incident.

Still in shock, Hasnuddin told *DH* that the US authorities didn't notify the family about his son's death.

Nizamuddin was shot dead by the police while he was allegedly attacking his roommate with a knife. When the police entered the house, he was reportedly holding a knife and threatening to attack again.

Hasnuddin learned about it only on Thursday, nearly two weeks later, when he contacted one of Nizamuddin's friends after his son's phone remained switched off for days.

The grieving father said he had spoken to his son only two days before the tragic incident.

The delay in notification has fueled Hasnuddin's suspicions of a cover-up.

"What should we infer? Why didn't they inform us about his death? In this modern world of advanced technology, is it so difficult to obtain contact details of his family members here in India? There is definitely some conspiracy, and to cover it up, they haven't informed us until now," he said.

According to Hasnuddin, his son endured persistent racial discrimination and harassment in the US, both at his workplace and residence. He described Nizamuddin as an upright person.

"His uprightness might have led to the discrimination and harassment from his supervisors and others," Hasnuddin explained in a voice heavy with emotion.

For months, Nizamuddin had been sharing troubling details about his living situation with his father. "They would often cut off the AC supply, and he once told me his roommates had poisoned him," Hasnuddin told *DH*.

The timing of the tragedy made it particularly heartbreaking for the family. During their last conversation on September 1, Nizamuddin had told his father he would return home this month after his application for visa extension was denied.

"After he went to the US in 2016, he never came home. I was so happy that I would see him after so many years. I never anticipated this would happen," Hasnuddin said.

Nizamuddin had gone to the US in 2016 to pursue a master's degree at Florida Institute of Technology after completing his B Tech at a college in Mahbubnagar. He was the elder of Hasnuddin's two children; his younger sister recently completed her MBBS.

Sacking, visa woes: Nizamuddin detailed problems on social media

HYDERABAD, DHNS: As the Santa Clara police launched a probe into Telangana youth Mohammed Nizamuddin's death, details emerged about his final weeks: allegations of racial hatred, discrimination, harassment, torture, wage fraud, wrongful termination, and obstruction of justice.

Two weeks before his death, Nizamuddin shared a detailed LinkedIn post chronicling his ordeal. The 32-year-old had been working with the IT consulting firm EPAM Systems for Google since 2021.

According to his post, his employer withheld his visa extension in July 2023, then sacked him, and even changed his visa status to B2 in February 2024.

"I decided to raise my voice against all odds. Enough is enough—white supremacy and racist white American mentality must end," he wrote.

Nizamuddin added, "I faced significant hostility, an unacceptable work environment, racial discrimination, and racial harassment... I wasn't paid fairly or in accordance with Department of Labour wage levels."

He also wrote: "They continued their harassment, discrimination, and intimidating behaviour with help from a racist detective and team. Recently, the situation has deteriorated—my food was poisoned, and now I'm being evicted from my residence for fighting against injustice."

Delhi HC tribunals uphold ban on two J&K groups

NEW DELHI, PTI: Two Delhi High Court tribunals have upheld the ban imposed by the Centre on the Awami Action Committee headed by Kashmir's influential cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Shia leader Masroor Abbas Ansari-led Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen.

The tribunals, headed by the same judge -- Justice Sachin Datta -- observed that based on the material and evidence placed before them, there is ample justification to declare the two groups as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

"Thus, this Tribunal, having followed the procedure laid down in the UAPA and its Rules and having independently and objectively appreciated and evaluated the material and evidence on record, is of the firm and considered view that there is sufficient cause for declaring the organisation as an unlawful association under Section 3(1) of the UAPA," the identical order issued by the tribunals read.

On March 11, while declaring the two groups banned, the Union Home Ministry said that the Awami Action Committee (AAC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen (JKIM) were indulging in unlawful activities that were prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty and security of the country.

It said the leaders and members of the two groups have been involved in mobilising funds for perpetrating unlawful activities, including supporting secessionist, separatist and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

ABVP sweeps DUSU polls with 3 wins; NSUI bags 1

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP's student wing, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), has swept the Delhi University Student Union (DUSU) elections, winning the posts of president, secretary, and joint secretary, while the Congress's student body, the National Students Union of India (NSUI), managed to win only the vice-president position.

The ABVP's Aryan Maan, Kunal Chaudhary and Deepika Jha were elected the DUSU president, secretary, and joint secretary, respectively, while the NSUI's Rahul Jhansla will be its new V-P. Maan secured his win by a margin of 16,196 votes.

Sonia, Rahul, Priyanka in Wayanad amid rift concerns

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

AICC leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi came down to Wayanad on Friday to join Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who has been camping in her constituency over the last few days.

Even as their visit is reported to be a private one, it comes at a time when the Congress leadership in Kerala and its Wayanad unit are facing internal issues. The party's preparations for the coming local-body and Assembly polls could also be reviewed.

Priyanka and other Congress leaders, including Kerala PCC president Sunny Joseph, received Sonia and Rahul, who reached Padinjarathara in Wayanad in a helicopter from the Kozhikode airport.

Congress MPs Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visit Swaminathan Research Foundation at Kalpetta in Wayanad on Friday. PTI

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal also accompanied the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. They later had a brief meeting at a hotel where the AICC leaders were camping.

Priyanka has been in Wayanad since last week, meeting victims of man-animal conflicts, tribal hamlets in the forest areas, farmer Cheruvayal Raman, who is known for preserving traditional varieties of paddy, and many social and cultural leaders in the constituency.

The Congress' Wayanad unit is currently mired in serious infighting, which recently led to even open clashes.

The suicide of the party's district vice-president N M Vijayan and his son earlier this year also caused embarrassment as financial stress caused by some party local leaders was alleged to be the reason.

Vijayan's daughter-in-law also attempted suicide recently, accusing the Congress leadership of failing to fulfil their assurance to settle the debts that the family was facing.

There were also reports that five Congress leaders and workers in Wayanad died by suicide in the last 10 years owing to party-related issues.

Sabarimala 'gold theft' row: Congress vs LDF heats up

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A day ahead of the much-hyped Global Ayyappa Sangamam, the Congress has intensified its allegations against the CPM-led Left Democratic Front government in Kerala and the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) over discrepancies in the weight of the gold-plated covering at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple.

Accusing the CPM government and the Travancore Devaswom Board, which manages the Ayyappa temple, of being responsible for the alleged 'gold theft', Opposition Leader VD Satheesan demanded that both the government and the board issue a clarification before proceeding with the conclave, scheduled to be held on Saturday on the banks of the Pamba river near Sabarimala.

Even as the Opposition submitted a notice for an adjournment motion in the Assembly on Friday, Speaker AN Shamseer denied permission, citing that the matter was under judicial consideration.

Satheesan countered that issues pending before courts had been discussed in the House on earlier occasions. "Adjournment motions were allowed over the past three days, yet the ruling LDF is now trying to avoid discussion on the gold theft from Sabarimala," he said.

He also reiterated the Congress' earlier stand that it would cooperate with the conclave only if the government clarified whether it was willing to withdraw the affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court supporting the demand to abolish the restriction on the entry of women aged 10 to 50 into the hill shrine.

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday ordered a probe into the reported drop of 4.5 kg in the weight of the gold-plated copper covering of the 'Dwarapalaka' idols at the sanctum sanctorum of the Sabarimala temple. The court said that the total weight of the gold-clad copper coverings was 42.8 kg before they were sent for gold plating in August 2019. After the plating was completed, the weight dropped to 38.26 kg.

The gold plating had been sponsored as an offering by Bengaluru-based devotee Unnikrishnan Potti.

BJP, Cong spar over Yasin Malik's Manmohan remarks

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Friday alleged that former prime minister Manmohan Singh "thanked" Yasin Malik for meeting Hafiz Saeed, sharing Malik's Delhi High Court affidavit to support its claim.

Congress chief spokesperson Pawan Khera replied that the RSS and its think-tank, the Vivekananda Foundation, met Malik, and that he was made to speak to Reliance founder Dhirubhai Ambani when Atal Behari Vajpayee was PM.

Sharing the affidavit,

Yasin Malik

Malviya alleged that the Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front terrorist met Lashkar-e-Taiba founder and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed in Pakistan in 2006.

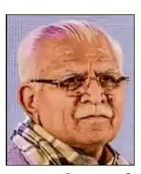
"The meeting was not his independent initiative but was arranged at the request of senior Indian intelligence officials as part of a back-channel peace process. After the meeting, then-PM Manmohan Singh personally thanked and expressed gratitude to him," he said.

Calling Malik a "hardened terrorist" who gunned down three Air Force personnel in uniform, Malviya said this "amounts to waging war against the state".

"If these new claims are true, they raise grave questions about the UPA's handling of national security and back-channel diplomacy," he said, referring to the Congress-led UPA, which was in power at the Centre from 2004 to 2014.

Indus waters to be diverted to Delhi, Haryana, Raj: Khattar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday said that the water saved due to the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan will be made available to Delhi, Haryana, and Rajasthan within the next one to one and a half years.


Manohar Lal Khattar

"The large quantity of water that was discharged towards Pakistan will now be brought and supplied to Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan in the coming one or one and a half years," the minister said, addressing a programme to launch the drainage master plan of the national capital.

India's decision to suspend the decades-old Indus Water Treaty came in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed.

The treaty, brokered by the World Bank, has governed the use of the Indus river and its tributaries—Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Jhelum, and Chenab—between India and Pakistan since 1960. Under the treaty, India was granted exclusive rights to the water of the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi—amounting to an average annual flow of about 33 million acre-feet (MAF).

The water of the western rivers—the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab—which was largely allocated to Pakistan, has now been stopped and is available to be used by India.

LADY LOCO PILOT

End of the line for rail trailblazer

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A trailblazer, Surekha Yadav, the first lady train driver of Asia, who has seen the transition of Indian Railways during her 36-year career, will hang up her boots at the end of this month.

Born on September 2, Surekha became the first female train driver in 1988.

The 60-year-old's journey is an extraordinary story of determination, resilience, and breaking gender barriers in one of the most challenging professions.

From the workhorse Goods Trains to the iconic local trains of Mumbai to the modern Vande Bharat Express, she has been the first lady to run these trains.

"Surekha Yadav, Asia's first woman train driver, will retire on September 30 after 36 glorious years of service. A true trailblazer, she broke barriers, inspired countless women, and proved that no dream is beyond reach," the Mumbai-headquartered Central Railway said.

Surekha Yadav

In 1988, when the Satara-born woman became an assistant driver, it was a forte of men; however, she broke the barrier and climbed the ladder. In 1989, she became an assistant loco driver, in 1996 a goods train driver, in 2000 a motorwoman, and a Ghat driver in 2010. She drove the Deccan Queen in 2011.

In 2023, she piloted the Vande Bharat Express, a semi-high-speed train, from Solapur to Mumbai.

"My parents never discouraged me from taking up this profession," she said.

Surekha's husband serves in the police, while both her sons are engineers.

Army soldier injured as encounter breaks out in J&K's Udhampur

JAMMU, PTI: One Army soldier was injured in an encounter that broke out between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Friday.

Acting on specific information, the Army, Special Operations Group (SOG), and police launched an operation in the Dudu police station limits bordering the Seoj Dhar high-altitude area, resulting in the encounter, officials said.

"Encounter is in progress. Joint teams of SOG, police and Indian Army on ground," Jammu IGP said. One Army jawan suffered injuries in the exchange of fire, reports said.

Earlier, the White Knight Corps had said on X that "in an intelligence-based operation in the general area of Kishtwar, alert troops of the White Knight Corps established contact with terrorists at around 8 pm".

5 more bodies recovered in rain-ravaged Chamoli

Death toll due to landslides and flooding rises to 7; 2 still missing

GOPESHWAR (U'KHAND), PTI

Structures lay in ruins at an affected area following cloudburst in Dehradun district on Friday. PTI

Five more bodies were found from the rain-ravaged villages in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Friday as rescue teams dug through debris and waded through sludge in search of the missing.

With this, the death toll due to landslides and flooding in the area has climbed to seven. Two bodies were found on Thursday, officials said.

As rescuers pulled out the bodies, the family members of the victims broke down.

Four of the five bodies were found from Kuntari Laga Phali village on Friday and one was pulled out of the rubble in neighbouring Kuntari Laga Sarpani, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) in Dehradun said.

Landslides and flooding triggered by heavy rain hit four villages—Kuntari Laga Phali, Kuntari Laga Sarpani, Sera and Dhurma—in Chamoli's Nandanagar area, about 260 km from state capital Dehradun and 50 km from the Chamoli district headquarters at Gopeshwar, on Thursday.

A total of 45 houses and 15 cowsheds were damaged in the incidents.

Nandanagar is already reeling from land subsidence.

The bodies found from Kuntari Laga Phali were identified as those of Deveshwari Devi (65), Kanta Devi (38) and her sons Vikas and Vishal, both aged 10. Kanta Devi's husband, Kunwar Singh (42), was rescued alive miraculously 16 hours after the incident on Thursday evening.

The body found from Kuntari Laga Sarpani was identified as that of Bhaga Devi (65).

Two persons are still missing in Dhurma and the search continues for them.

On Thursday, 12 people were injured, including five rescued alive from Kuntari Laga Phali and Dhurma. Those seriously injured are undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rishikesh, officials said.

They said 95 people have been shifted to the relief camps set up at Maria Ashram and Gala Godown.

Top court refuses to ease Varavara Rao's bail terms

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain a plea by activist and poet P Varavara Rao—an accused in the 2018 Bhima Koregaon violence case in Maharashtra—seeking modification of his bail conditions.

A bench comprising Justices JK Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi rejected Rao's request to alter the condition that requires him to obtain prior permission from the trial court before leaving the Greater Mumbai area.

The bench said it was not keen to modify the bail terms. Following submissions, the court dismissed the plea as withdrawn.

Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for Rao, contended that his client has been out on bail for over three years, but his health is deteriorating. He submitted that Rao receives a pension of Rs 50,000 but incurs monthly expenses of Rs 76,000. While he had access to free healthcare in Telangana, he is required to pay for medical services in Greater Mumbai, Grover said.

Varavara Rao

"The government will take care of his health, or he can approach the same court. We are not interested," the SC said.

Grover submitted that Rao's wife, who had cared for him, has since moved to Hyderabad, leaving him without support in Mumbai. He added that the trial is unlikely to conclude anytime soon.

In August 2022, the court granted Rao bail on medical grounds, noting that he was 82 years old and had spent two and a half years in custody. The court clarified that the bail was granted solely on medical grounds and would not serve as a precedent for other accused or for Rao himself on the merits of the case.

The court had ordered Rao not to leave the jurisdiction of Mumbai "without express permission of the trial court".

SC defers Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam bail hearing to Monday

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday deferred its hearing on pleas for bail filed by former JNU students Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid, and others arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for a larger conspiracy in the 2020 Delhi riots.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria allowed a plea for adjournment made on behalf of the counsel for the accused and posted the matter for consideration on Monday.

On September 12, the court had decided to take up the matter on September 19, as the bench had said it had got the case files late at night and could not read them.

Khalid and others have been in jail since 2020 in connection with the riots, which had left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. The high court on September 2 dismissed the bail petitions.

A division bench had noted the nature of the allegations and specifically the submission by the state that the present is not a case of regular protest or riot matter but rather a premeditated, well-orchestrated conspiracy to commit unlawful activities threatening the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of India.

The court had then also dismissed similar bail plea by other accused Athar Khan, Abdul Khalid Saifi, Mohd Saleem Khan, Shifa Ur Rehman, Meeran Haider, Gulfisha Fatima and Shadab Ahmed.

SC to examine Vodafone Idea plea to quash additional AGR on September 26

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to consider a plea by telecom major Vodafone Idea Ltd seeking the quashing of the additional adjusted gross revenue (AGR) demands until 2016-17.

A bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria, however, said, "There has to be some finality to the proceedings." The court fixed the matter for consideration on September 26.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi represented the telecom firm, and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta represented the central government.

Mehta said the parties wanted to find a solution, as the circumstances had changed now. He sought an adjournment in the matter.

Mehta also contended that the government and the company were trying to find a resolution.

Mehta pointed out that the government had bought 50% shares of Vodafone Idea.

The bench said it could fix the matter for hearing next Friday.

Mehta and Rohatgi submitted that they would be able to convince the court, and requested an adjournment till next week.

The bench was informed that the telecom company had to pay a licence fee to the government, and it was calculated based on gross revenue.

The telecom company filed a fresh plea on September 8 seeking a direction to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to "comprehensively re-assess and reconcile all AGR dues for the period up to FY 2016-17 following the Deduction Verification Guidelines" of February 3, 2020.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HAPPY FLAG DAY, MR.B.!!
THANKS, KIDS! DID YOU KNOW IN 1776 IT WAS BETSY ROSS WHO CREATED THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG?
WOW, I WONDER HOW SHE CAME UP WITH SUCH A COOL DESIGN?
WELL, THERE'S LOTS OF CLIP ART ON THE INTERNET!

Hagar The Horrible

I'M TAKING SNERT OUT FOR A WALK!
USE THIS BAG TO PICK UP AFTER HIM!
I HOPE NOBODY SEES ME DO THAT!
I WILL! AND IT WILL BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY WALK!

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

THIS IS MY REPORT ON "OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS"
NOW, MANY OF YOU CITY KIDS ARE NOT ACQUAINTED WITH NATURE'S NOBLE CREATURES...
THEREFORE, AS A SPECIAL TREAT, I HAVE BROUGHT FOR YOU TODAY A REAL LIVE ANIMAL!
WHAT IS IT, A CHICKEN?

Marvin

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NIRKD

NIHOR

XTPMEE

ALNGGY

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I can't believe we finally get to put this sign out.
So much blood, sweat and tears.
VACANCY
Home Sweet Home Vacation Stay
3 14
THEIR SMALL LODGING ESTABLISHMENT WAS GETTING READY TO OPEN AFTER YEARS ---

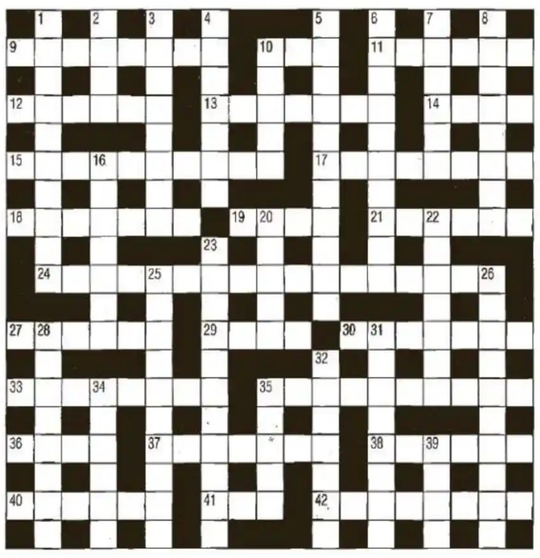
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: USURP ADOPT REFUSE USEFUL
Answer: As the daily special, chicken noodle was 50% off, which made it a — "SOUP-ER" DEAL

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4006



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 The proper wine for a lady (8)
10 A very good-sounding dessert (3)
11 Weaken and look after the little rascal (6)
12 It's frozen fish the doctor caught (6)
13 Given a tip, say, to nominate (7)
14 Stand down, having retired, and I get in (4)
15 Apply to the new member of the government (10)
17 Are they worn by someone who is poor but happy? (4,4)
18 Argued one should see the cricketer in action (7)
19 "Capital" is "big", see (4)
21 Gathers it's the answer to a leg-break (6)
24 Being unscrupulous, but having no staying power (8,2,7)
27 Are attached to, though had come loose before (6)
29 Happening to have left the T out of "flat" (4)
30 Talks about the right food for vegetarians to eat (7)
33 Agrees with - the joint has a simple fracture (8)
35 Found minus its dust jacket? (10)
36 Criticises the return game (4)
37 Ramble on about a repairman (7)
38 Did leave unfinished, not thinking much about food (6)
40 Confine to a half of bitter in the pub (6)
41 With a female, talking money (3)
42 Guff from the punters? (8)

DOWN
1 Like unjustified claims to be a landowner? (10)
2 Among a thousand, four hundred and ninety-nine (4)
3 Unusually fair to myself, temporarily (3,1,4)
4 Leaves half the side pieces (7)
5 Watching golf while you're being shown over (6,5)
6 First to go into the drink, is frantic (10)
7 The creature returns again when one turns the lights down (6)
8 Continuing to exist, being supported by (6,2)
10 He plays for Philip and the Queen (5)
16 Suppose a mine goes off when the soldier enters it (7)
20 Small, trim and thin (5)
22 The incident of the pie throwing does seem very funny (7)
23 Is given to believe one empathises with (11)
25 Remember to confine to the home and to look after (4,2,4)
26 When it speeds up will, you understand, wobble (7,3)
28 On the way back, confessing to killing (8)
31 Lengthen for the page on tractor assembly (8)
32 That the car is faulty, be going to attribute to (7)
34 Burst it and ran off (6)
35 To avoid the odd bust up, for instance (5)
39 Nothing but a bird (4)

ACROSS
9 Mixed drink (8)
10 Insect (3)
11 Deed (6)
12 Arachnid (6)
13 Deer meat (7)
14 Mature (4)
15 Insulation material (10)
17 Twists (8)
18 Submissive (7)
19 Flower (4)
21 Eat daintily (6)
24 Blocks of flats (8,9)
27 Soup dish (6)
29 Sea eagle (4)
30 Solemnity (7)
33 Inhabitant (8)
35 Fair (10)
36 Leave out (4)
37 Light rain (7)
38 Take for granted (6)
40 Loudness (6)
41 Stray (3)
42 Turning aside (8)

DOWN
1 Flattering remark (10)
2 Slide (4)
3 Song (8)
4 Of a river (7)
5 Gloomy (11)
6 Kept (10)
7 Stowed (6)
8 Officer (8)
10 Extra payment (5)
16 Retribution (7)
20 Small bird (5)
22 Source of wealth (7)
23 Performer (11)
25 Treated roughly (10)
26 Colony (10)
28 Rare (8)
31 Singled out (8)
32 Troglodyte (7)
34 False (6)
35 Shaving implement (5)
39 Satisfy (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12250

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, BR-est. 6, Eagle 9, Must-ang 10, Sta-I-n 11, D-ebts 12, Cloud 13, MI-chae-L 15, Rep. 17, Only 18, Fed-O-ra 19, FA-Red 20,Trader 22, S-it-E 24, Hen 25, M-utters 26, Al-tar 27, Hippo(-crates) 28, Frome 29, Sweater 30, Med-ES 31, Dying.
DOWN: 2, Re-TA-in 3, Smithy 4,Tun 5, S-tall 6, Endu-red 7, Age-D 8, Letter 12, C-Ed-ar 13, Mo-U-th 14, Clean 15, Rosie 16, Paces 18, Femur 19, Fellows 21, Retire 22, Sta-RR-y 23,T-rum-an 25, MA-rat 26, Apse 28, Fed.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Dream 6, Satan 9, Bestows 10, Sprat 11, Ether 12, Dubai 13, Rivulet 15, Sup 17, Ores 18, Better 19, Rower 20, Donkey 22, Arid 24, SAS 25, Athlete 26, Bombs 27,Tiber 28, Boils 29, Amorous 30, Chars 31, Stack.
DOWN: 2, Repair 3, Abacus 4, Met 5, Stout 6, Sweater 7, Asti 8, Avenue 12, Decoy 13, Roads 14, Veins 15, Store 16, Pride 18, Beats 19, Reforms 21, Oafish 22, Almost 23, Italic 25, Abort 26, Bear 28, Bus.

◆SU-DO-KU-6706◆

		5		1	3			
2				8		5	3	
	7			9			6	
					5	3		
1			6		9			7
		2	1					
	4			7			8	
	3	7		5				6
			3	6		9		

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6705

5	8	4	7	1	2	6	9	3
7	1	9	3	8	6	5	4	2
2	3	6	9	4	5	1	8	7
6	9	7	8	5	3	4	2	1
1	2	8	4	9	7	3	5	6
3	4	5	6	2	1	9	7	8
4	5	3	2	6	8	7	1	9
8	6	1	5	7	9	2	3	4
9	7	2	1	3	4	8	6	5

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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O1	A1	R1	R1	P3	T1	I1	Double Word Score
S1	R1	O1	U1	C3	S1	N1	
E1	E1	E1	S1	B3	D2	D2	Triple Word Score
I1	G2	H4	R1	N1	I1	S1	1st Letter Triple

RACK 1 RACK 2 RACK 3 RACK 4

PAR SCORE 180-190
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

G2 U1 M3 M3 I1 E1 R1	RACK 1 =	86
S1 H4 A1 K5 E1 R1 S1	RACK 2 =	92
A1 P3 P3 E1 A1 S1 E1	RACK 3 =	83
R1 E1 C3 U1 S1 A1 L1	RACK 4 =	77
PAR SCORE 220-230	JUDD'S TOTAL	338

HITORI-3160

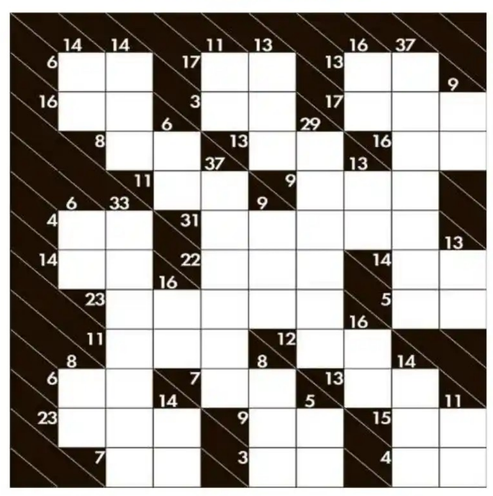
3	8	8	1	4	6	6	3
6	3	1	6	3	8	2	4
5	1	3	8	3	4	7	2
4	3	5	3	3	7	8	6
8	7	3	2	5	8	1	8
2	4	7	5	3	6	3	7
1	1	4	7	6	3	3	8
8	2	6	3	7	3	8	5

SOLUTION TO 3159

1	8	4	7	3	■	5	2
4	■	1	■	8	6	■	5
2	4	7	5	6	■	8	3
■	7	■	2	■	3	1	4
6	3	5	■	4	1	2	■
■	2	6	8	■	4	3	1
7	5	■	1	2	■	6	■
■	1	8	■	7	5	4	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3160



SOLUTION TO 3159

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3682

■							8	■
7	■	9					■	
		4		8		■		9
	7	8	5		■		1	4
1	5			■		7	9	
			1		■			
		2		3		■		8
	■		2	7			■	
■								■

SOLUTION TO 3681

1	5	2	4	8	9	7	3	6
9	7	3	2	6	1	5	8	4
4	6	8	7	3	5	2	1	9
5	9	4	3	2	7	1	6	8
6	2	1	9	5	8	3	4	7
8	3	7	1	4	6	9	2	5
7	8	9	6	1	2	4	5	3
2	4	5	8	7	3	6	9	1
3	1	6	5	9	4	8	7	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

MI6 dark web portal to attract spies from around the world

LONDON, PTI: A dark web portal launched on Friday will recruit spies from around the world for Britain using MI6's new secure messaging platform named "Silent Courier".

The UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the target is to recruit agents in Russia as well as other geographies by harnessing the anonymity of the dark web for the first time.

Instructions on how to access the portal will be publicly available on MI6's verified YouTube channel as the UK proactively reaches out to potential new agents in different parts of the world.

"As the world changes, and the threats we're facing multiply, we must ensure the UK is always one step ahead of our adversaries," said Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper."Our world-class intelligence agencies are at the coalface of this challenge, working behind the scenes to keep British people safe. Now we're bolstering their efforts with cutting-edge tech so MI6 can recruit new spies for the UK – in Russia and around the world," she said.

The platform will enable anyone, anywhere in the world with access to sensitive information relating to terrorism or hostile intelligence activity to securely contact the UK and offer their services.

Oli denies giving any shooting orders during 'Gen Z' protests

KATHMANDU, PTI: Nepal's deposed prime minister K P Sharma Oli on Friday denied that he had given any shooting orders during the 'Gen Z' demonstrations, saying bullets were fired at protesters from automatic guns that the police did not possess and called for a probe into the matter.

In his first public statement since his ouster on September 9, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) chairman blamed the infiltrators for the violence during the "peaceful protest" by Gen-Z.

"The government didn't order to shoot at the demonstrators," 73-year-old Oli said in a message issued on the occasion of Constitution Day.

"The bullets were fired at the protesters from automatic guns, which were not possessed by the police personnel, and this must be investigated," Oli said.

Seventy-four people, including 3 policemen, were among the dead during the youth-led violent protests on September 8 and 9 against corruption and a ban on social media.

Claiming that there was "infiltration" in the "peaceful protests", he said, "The infiltrating conspirators turned the agitation violent, and this way our youths were killed."

China, Taliban reject Trump's plan to reclaim Afghan air base

US Prez suggests troops could return to Bagram citing its proximity to China

BEIJING/KABUL, AP/PTI

China and the Taliban on Friday rejected US President Donald Trump's proposal to reclaim Afghanistan's strategic Bagram air base near the Chinese border, with Beijing cautioning against efforts to stir regional confrontation and Kabul reiterating that Afghans never accepted foreign military presence.

The sprawling Bagram air base was abandoned by American troops four years ago in 2021 during their chaotic withdrawal ordered by then president Joe Biden, as Taliban militants took control of Kabul.

A view of the Bagram US air base after American troops vacated it on July 5, 2021. REUTERS FILE

Trump, speaking at a joint press conference in the UK with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, on Thursday said he was trying to get the base back because of its proximity to where China makes nuclear weapons. The US President was on a state visit to the UK.

Reacting to Trump's remarks, Taliban official Zakir Jalal said the interim Afghanistan government "completely rejects" the idea.

Afghanistan and America need to engage with each other and can have economic and political relations based on mutual respect and common benefits, without America having military presence in any part of Afghanistan, he said in a post on X.

"Military presence has never been accepted by Afghans in history, and this possibility was completely rejected during the Doha talks and agreement, but doors to other engagements have been opened," Jalal added. China too conveyed its opposition to Trump's remarks, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian telling a media briefing in Beijing that "stirring up tension and confrontation in the region will not be supported".

"China respects Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity... Afghanistan's future should rest in the hands of the Afghan people," he said.

"Let me stress that stirring up tension and confrontation in the region will not be supported... We hope all parties will play a constructive role for regional peace and stability," Lin said.

China, which established diplomatic ties with the Taliban government soon after its takeover of Kabul, has invested in reviving a copper mine and oil extraction projects in Afghanistan.

Trump set to overhaul H-1B visas with $1,00,000 fee

US President to sign order amid concerns in tech sector

BLOOMBERG

US President Donald Trump is expected to sign a proclamation as soon as Friday that would extensively overhaul the H-1B visa programme, requiring a $1,00,000 fee for applications in a bid to curb overuse, according to a White House official familiar with the matter.

Trump is set to sign the proclamation on Friday, mandating the payment and asserting that abuse of the H-1B pathway has displaced US workers.

The proclamation restricts entry under the H-1B programme unless accompanied by the payment, the official added. The source was granted anonymity to discuss the policy before its announcement.

Trump also plans to direct the US Labour Secretary to begin a rulemaking process to revise prevailing-wage levels for the H-1B programme — a move intended to limit the use of visas to undercut wages that would otherwise be paid to American workers.

Demonstrators protest outside of an immigration processing centre in Broadview, Illinois, on Friday. AFP

The measure is the latest immigration reform by the Trump administration and will particularly affect the technology sector, which relies heavily on H-1Bs. The administration argues that the revisions will bring more certainty to legitimate filings by eliminating abuses.

In a fact sheet seen by Bloomberg News, the White House said American workers are being replaced by lower-paid foreign labour, describing it as a national security threat. The dynamic, it added, is suppressing wages and discouraging Americans from pursuing careers in STEM fields.

It was not immediately clear whether the $100,000 figure was in addition to, or inclusive of, existing fees, which are currently far more modest.

Fees directly tied to H-1B visa applications currently include a $215 fee to register for the lottery and a $780 fee for Form I-129, a petition for a non-immigrant worker filed by an employer sponsor.

Unlike large tech firms, these companies often use the programme to hire lower-paid workers indirectly, through staffing and outsourcing firms that capture about half of the 85,000 new visas allocated each year.

US vetoes UNSC resolution on Gaza ceasefire

UNITED NATIONS, AP/PTI

The US once again vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on Thursday that had demanded an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the release of hostages, saying that the effort did not go far enough in condemning Hamas.

The 14 other members of the United Nations' most powerful body voted in favor of the resolution, which described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as "catastrophic" and called on Israel to lift all restrictions on the delivery of aid to the 2.1 million Palestinians in the territory.

"US opposition to this resolution will come as no surprise," Morgan Ortagus, a senior US policy adviser, said before the vote. "It fails to condemn Hamas or recognise Israel's right to defend itself, and it wrongly legitimises the false narratives benefiting Hamas, which have sadly found currency in this council." She added that other council members "ignored" US warnings about the "unacceptable" language and instead adopted "performative action designed to draw a veto."

The outcome further highlights US and Israeli isolation on the world stage over the nearly two-year war in Gaza. The vote came just days before the annual gathering of world leaders at the UN General Assembly, where Gaza will be a major topic and major US allies are expected to recognise an independent Palestinian state.

India backs Abbas to address high-level session

India on Friday voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution that allows Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to address its upcoming high-level session through video after the US denied visas to Palestinian officials, preventing their participation in person.

Drone attack on Sudan mosque kills 70

CAIRO, AP/PTI: A drone attack blamed on Sudan's paramilitary group Rapid Support Forces struck a mosque during prayers Friday, killing at least 70 worshippers in the North Darfur region, aid workers and the Sudanese army said.

The strike in the besieged city of El Fasher completely destroyed the mosque, and the death toll would likely go higher because bodies still were buried in the rubble, said a worker with the local aid group Emergency Response Rooms. The worker spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation by the Rapid Support Forces, or RSF.

Sudan's army, which has been fighting against the RSF in escalating violence since April 2023, said in a statement that it was mourning the deaths of at least 70 victims in the attack.

"Targeting civilians unjustly is the motto of this rebel militia, and it continues to do so in full view of the entire world," the statement read.

Further details of the attack were difficult to obtain because it happened in an area where many international organisations have pulled out due to security risks in the crossfire of battles between the RSF and the army.

Trump confirms Xi meet at APEC, China trip; TikTok deal approved

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: US President Donald Trump said he would meet Chinese President Xi Jinping at a regional summit to take place at the end of October in South Korea and that he would visit China in the "early part of next year," following a phone call the leaders shared on Friday.

In a Truth Social post, Trump also said the Chinese leader would come to the United states "at an appropriate time," noting the leaders also approved a TikTok deal.

"The call was a very good one, we will be speaking again by phone, appreciate the TikTok approval, and both look forward to meeting at APEC!," Trump wrote, referring to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, a grouping of 21 economies on the Pacific Rim.

China's official news agency Xinhua said Xi, in the call, stressed the importance of the bilateral ties and urged the American side to avoid against any unilateral trade restrictions from the US.

This is the second call with Xi since Trump returned to the White House and launched sky-high tariffs on China, triggering back-and-forth trade restrictions that strained ties between the two largest economies.

'Homebound' picked as India's official entry for Oscar Awards

KOLKATA, PTI: Filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan's Hindi film *Homebound* has been chosen as India's official entry for the 2026 Academy Awards in the Best International Feature category.

The movie, which was selected in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival and was recently screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, was picked to represent India at the Oscars by the chairperson of the selection committee, N Chandra.

A scene from the film 'Homebound'.

Chandra said a total of 24 films from different languages were in contention to represent the country at the Academy Awards. "It was a very difficult choice. These were films that touched the lives of people. We were not judges but coaches. We were searching for players who have made their mark," he said. "*Homebound* was chosen unanimously by the jury to represent the country," he added. Ghaywan shared the news on Instagram and reacted, "OMG!!! This is Real!!"

Asked whether controversial films such as The Bengal Files did not make the cut, Chandra said every film on the list was a strong contender. "But we had to select one film from India which will represent the country at the Oscars, and Homebound made the cut."

The film portrays the childhood friendship between a Muslim and a Dalit who pursue police jobs in the hope of achieving the dignity long denied them because of their surnames. When the film premiered in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes it received a nine-minute standing ovation. The 98th Academy Awards will take place on Sunday, 15 March 2026.

Russia offers localisation of large and small N-plants in India

MOSCOW, PTI

Russia has offered India cooperation in localisation of large and small nuclear power plants as part of a civil nuclear energy collaboration between the two countries, it was announced Friday.

Russia is currently building the Kudankulam nuclear power plant (NPP) in Tamil Nadu. According to Rosatom, the state atomic energy corporation, its Director General Alexey Likhachov made the offer during his meeting with the Indian delegation on the sidelines of the 69th annual session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna from September 15-20.

"Talks with India – one of Rosatom's strategic partners – centred on expanding collaboration in peaceful nuclear energy. Rosatom offered to work with India on localising large- and small-scale nuclear power plant projects, building on India's strong industrial capabilities," a Rosatom release said. "The parties reviewed progress on the four units under construction at Kudankulam NPP for phases II and III and explored opportunities for further cooperation, including serial construction of Russian-designed large and small NPPs in India," the release added.

In the first phase of Kudankulam NPP, Rosatom has already commissioned two units. At the annual forum, Rosatom, which is celebrating the 80th anniversary of Russia's nuclear industry, showcased its achievements, innovative projects, and strategic vision for the future of nuclear energy on the global stage.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

British nationals Peter Reynolds and his wife Barbara speak with journalists upon their release from Taliban custody in Kabul on Friday. AFP

Taliban release British couple held for months in Afghanistan

▸ The Taliban released on Friday a British couple held in Afghanistan for more than seven months on undisclosed charges, an official said, likely part of a wider effort to get their government recognised internationally years after taking power, AP/PTI reports from Dubai.

The case of Peter and Barbie Reynolds, aged 80 and 75, underlined the concerns of the West over the actions of the Taliban since they overthrew the country's US-backed government in a 2021 lightning offensive. The Reynolds had lived in Afghanistan for 18 years and run an education and training organisation in the country's central province of Bamiyan, choosing to remain in the country after the Taliban seized power.

Qatar, an energy-rich nation on the Arabian Peninsula that mediated talks between the US and the Taliban before the American withdrawal, helped in releasing the Reynolds. The couple left Afghanistan on Friday, a diplomat said. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations in the case.

Trump's $15b lawsuit dismissed

▸ A federal judge in Florida on Friday tossed President Donald Trump's $15 billion defamation lawsuit against New York Times, AP/PTI reports from Tampa (US).

The lawsuit named a book and an article written by Times reporters Russ Buettner and Susanne Craig that focuses on Trump's finances and his pre-presidency starring role in television's "The Apprentice". Trump said in the lawsuit that they "maliciously peddled the fact-free narrative" that television producer Mark Burnett turned Trump into a celebrity — "even though at and prior to the time of publications defendants knew that President Trump was already a mega-celebrity and an enormous success in business".

Migrants try to board a smuggler's boat in an attempt to cross the English Channel off the beach of Gravelines, in France on Friday. AFP

15-yr jail for possession of jumbo

▸ The Colombo High Court on Friday sentenced a man to 15 years imprisonment and imposed a fine of 20.6 million Sri Lankan rupees for illegal possession of an elephant, PTI reports from Colombo.

A three-judge bench delivered the verdict and ordered the elephant to be sent back to government custody. The incident of the man, Samarappulige Niraj Roshan, also known as 'Ali Roshan', having five elephants illegally was reported in 2015. He was tried under the Public Properties Act. The offences were said to have occurred between 2009 and 2015. He and three others were charged with falsifying the entry at the Department of Wildlife registry. Out of the 33 charges filed, the court found Roshan guilty of two. While Roshan was sentenced for possessing one elephant, the other three suspects were acquitted of the charges.

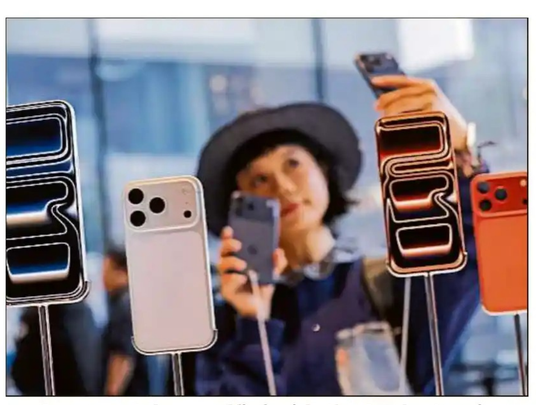
Russian jets enter Estonia airspace

▸ Estonia summoned a Russian diplomat to protest after three Russian fighter aircraft entered its airspace without permission Friday and stayed there for 12 minutes, AP/PTI reports from Tallinn (Estonia).

Foreign Minister Margus Tsakhna said Russia violated Estonian airspace four times this year "but today's incursion, involving three fighter aircraft entering our airspace, is unprecedentedly brazen".

Russian officials did not immediately comment.

Russia's violation of Poland's airspace was the most serious cross-border incident into a NATO member country since the war in Ukraine began with Russia's all-out invasion in February 2022.



A woman takes a selfie inside the Apple store in Beijing's Sanlitun area as the new iPhone 17 series smartphones go on sale in Beijing on Friday. REUTERS

After S&P, Japan's R&I upgrades India's sovereign rating

This is the country's third credit rating upgrade in FY26

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has secured its third sovereign credit rating upgrade this fiscal with Japan's Rating and Investment Information Inc (R&I) on Friday raising the country's "currency issuer rating" from BBB to BBB+ with a stable outlook, citing strong domestic demand, fiscal discipline and improved external stability.

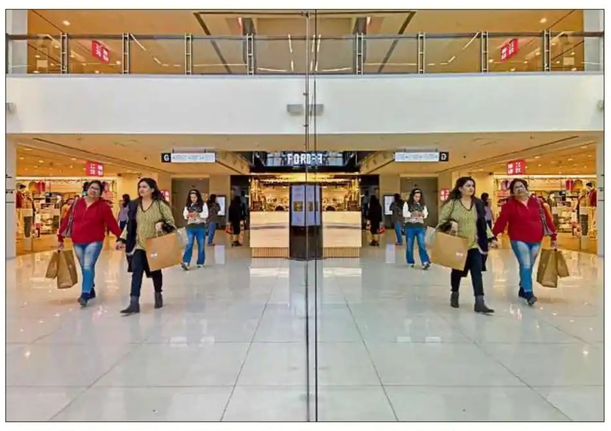
The agency has also affirmed India's foreign currency short-term debt rating at a-2.

This comes nearly a month after New York-headquartered S&P Global upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-'. In May, Canada-based Morningstar DBRS' upgrade India's rating to 'BBB' (from BBB (low)), reaffirming the country's position as one of the most dynamic and resilient major economies in the world.

"Three credit rating upgrades for India in five months reflect increasing global recognition for India's robust and resilient macroeconomic fundamentals and prudent fiscal management, and underscore global confidence in India's medium-term growth prospects amid prevailing global uncertainties," the Union Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The Government of India remains committed to building on this momentum through policies that promote inclusive, high-quality growth alongside fiscal prudence and macroeconomic stability, the ministry said.

The sovereign rating upgrades pave the way for cheaper and more predictable access to foreign funds for the government as well as the private sector.


Strong domestic demand has gone in India's favour.

India has secured rare upgrades in sovereign ratings despite challenges to the economy due to global uncertainties, especially tariff tensions with the United States.

"The United States has raised its tariff rate on India to 50%. While this may pose a risk factor for the economic outlook, India's economy is mainly driven by domestic factors and its dependence on exports to the US is not high," R&I said.

On the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cut, R&I said its impact on the economy will be limited.

"Despite the uncertainties surrounding the global economic environment, India's economy can be expected to maintain firm growth thanks to the economic structures driven by domestic demand and the policies of the administration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," it said.

Explaining the rationale for the rating upgrade, R&I said, "the government has made progress in reducing the fiscal deficit at a moderate pace, and the government debt ratio will likely fall. In addition, external stability has been strengthened, as seen in the current account deficit staying at a low level, the narrowing negative net international investment position and other factors."

On the economy, R&I said India would maintain real GDP growth rate in the mid-6% range from FY2026 onwards, backed by the population growth, the catch-up effect of income, and the government's public investment and economic policy among other factors.

The Reserve Bank of India has projected the country's GDP growth for the current financial year at 6.5%.

"While the government aims to make India a developed economy by 2047, it is necessary to accelerate the economic growth in order to achieve this goal. Eyes are on the government's moves to see whether it will be able to upgrade the economic growth structure, while tackling the social issues such as poverty and unemployment simultaneously with pursuing fiscal consolidation," the rating agency said.

Adani's regulatory risks not over as other probes continue

The group's market value surges by Rs 69,000 cr on Friday

BLOOMBERG

Gautam Adani in an X post hailed Indian market regulator's twin orders late on Thursday, saying these "reaffirmed what we have always maintained, that the Hindenburg claims were baseless."

But the regulator has not yet completed every probe triggered by the US short-seller's bombshell report in 2023.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India, or Sebi, is still investigating some accusations leveled by Hindenburg Research against the Adani Group, according to people familiar with the matter, signaling that the conglomerate received only a partial reprieve with Thursday's orders.

Sebi dismissed allegations of impropriety in two probes saying it found no evidence of the group using so-called related party transactions to route funds into its listed units.

But some investigation strands, such as whether the Adani conglomerate followed minimum public shareholdings guidelines, are still pending before Sebi, said one of the people. At least three to four cases are still being examined, another person said. These people spoke on the condition of anonymity as the information is not public.

The regulator has not yet received responses from some stakeholders related to these cases, one person added.

While there's nothing to indicate whether the ports-to-power conglomerate will face any fines or regulatory censure on the matters pending before Sebi, it's fairly likely that there could be more Sebi orders on the group.

An Adani Group representative didn't immediately respond to an email seeking a comment on pending Sebi probes.

Take more time

The billionaire-founder also remains indicted by the US Department of Justice last year in an alleged $250 million bribery scheme. Adani's efforts to get those charges resolved have stalled in recent months as the Washington and New Delhi have clashed on issues like trade, Russian oil and India's conflict with Pakistan, Bloomberg News reported this month citing people familiar with the matter.

"Adani Group could take a bit more time to get clearance from all allegations," said Ajay Manglunia, executive director at Capri Global Capital. "While the regulatory overhang may not be fully over, it will not impact Adani securities and businesses much as long as they are backed by solid assets."

Investors cheered Sebi's latest orders as all the conglomerate's listed firms rallied. The combined market value of Adani Group companies rose by more than $6 billion (Rs 69,000 crore) to $156 billion on Friday.

The scathing January 2023 report by the short-seller that has since disbanded had alleged large-scale corporate fraud, triggering a stock rout that at one point lopped off over $150 billion in market value for the listed Adani entities and halted Adani's debt-fueled expansion spree.

Court-mandated probe

It also led to the Supreme Court asking Sebi to probe Hindenburg's accusations against the conglomerate. The scope of the investigation spanned potential violations of minimum public shareholding rules in Adani Group firms, stock price manipulation through the foreign portfolio investment route and allegations of insider trading. It also included 13 matters on related party transactions, Sebi said in its status report to the court in August 2023.

Urban Company plans big bet on instant home services: CEO

BENGALURU, REUTERS

Urban Company, India's largest home-services provider, will double down on offering services within an hour, in a bid to attract more clients who are used to instant deliveries of everything from groceries to gadgets, its top boss said.

The company, which made a stellar trading debut on Wednesday after launching India's most sought-after IPO of the year, has traditionally allowed customers to schedule services, from facials to faucet repairs, for a later time.

Its new emphasis on rapid service delivery complements this model, reflecting the rising popularity of quick commerce across India.

The company recently launched its "Insta Help" service, allowing users to book domestic workers within 15 minutes.

"Given the frequency and relevance to the average Indian middle-class household, instant services are a category that will become very important. It could create a strong strategic moat (sustainable competitive advantage) around our core business and a strong engagement driver," CEO Abhiraj Singh Bhal told Reuters.

Abhiraj Singh Bhal

As of June 30, Urban Company had 7.02 million annual transacting customers, according to its offer document.

The company plans to make "meaningful" investments over the next two to three years to build a dense network of service professionals in its core markets, enabling it to offer instant services. This strategy could put pressure on profit margins, Bhal said, without providing specific details.

"I think it's going to take some labour along with some capital to really build the business before it breaks even," he said, noting that instant services help customers get assistance faster and benefit service professionals who have time between scheduled gigs.

Urban Company faces competition in the on-demand home services space from emerging startups such as General Catalyst-backed Pronto and Lightspeed-backed Snabbit. These rivals promise trained personnel for tasks like dishwashing, laundry and cleaning in as little as 10 minutes.

"Once they figure out the economics (of instant services), this can actually become the next big thing," Elara Capital analyst Karan Taurani said.

The market potential for such rapid services may be limited, and managing logistics could prove challenging, especially if service professionals are unable to take on additional requests, said Ashish Dhir, senior director of consumer and retail at market intelligence firm 1Lattice. These factors, he added, could hinder the growth of this vertical.

India has fourth-largest population of wealthy individuals — Ten largest populations of individuals with wealth over $10m

Territory	$10m+ Population	Share of Global $10m+ Total
US	9,05,413	38.7%
Chinese Mainland	4,71,634	20.1
Japan	1,22,119	5.2
India	85,698	3.7
Germany	69,798	3.0
Canada	64,988	2.8
UK	55,667	2.4
France	51,254	2.2
Australia	42,789	1.8
Hong Kong SAR	42,715	1.8

Source: Knight frank wealth report 2025 — Bloomberg

Yes Bank eyes wealth foray after deal with Japan's SMBC

BLOOMBERG: Indian private lender Yes Bank Ltd. is exploring entering the country's fiercely competitive $1 trillion wealth management space following its strategic partnership with Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

"Wealth is an area we're seriously considering," Yes Bank's Chief Executive Officer Prashant Kumar told Bloomberg News in an interview. "SMBC's backing gives us the confidence to explore this space."

The push into wealth management comes as the Indian lender deepens its ties with SMBC, Japan's second-largest lender by assets, which completed its acquisition of a 20% stake in Yes Bank this week.

India's cohort of wealthy individuals has surged over the last five years, thanks to robust equity market returns, real estate transactions, stock market listings and private equity investments. Rising salaries among the urban elite has many wealth managers opening their doors to the nouveau riche in a bid to grow their market share.

Competitive landscape Yes Bank is up against the country's leading private banks such as ICICI Bank Ltd., Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. and Axis Bank Ltd., whose wealth arms cumulatively manage about $330 billion of assets, according to Asian Private Banker. Non-bank players like 360 One WAM Ltd., Nuvama Wealth Management Ltd. and Blackstone Inc.-backed ASK Group — which collectively manage around $100 billion — too are expanding beyond India's metropolitan centers to woo high networth individuals.

Knight Frank estimates that India has just under 85,700 individuals with a net worth of over $10 million, trailing US, China and Japan. Assets under management at wealth firms and private banks are expected to more than double to $2.3 trillion between 2023 and 2029, according to a Deloitte report.

"With rising affluence, especially among younger demographics, there's a clear opportunity," Kumar said. "It's a long-term play requiring distribution, product diversity, and expertise."

The race to grow assets and acquire new clients has wealth managers offering extravagant pay packages to experienced private bankers.

Over the next three years, Yes Bank plans to finalize a joint strategy with SMBC, with a focus on scaling up existing operations and investing in new growth verticals.

SMBC, which been looking to expand its footprint in India, is looking to buy an additional 4.2% stake in the bank from an affiliate of Carlyle Group for 51 billion yen ($345 million).

Yes Bank, which is targeting 10%–12% loan growth for this fiscal year, is also planning to add 400 new branches over the next five years.

LTTS to explore next-gen AI

BENGALURU, DHNS: Pureplay engineering services company L&T Technology Services on Friday announced a multi-year membership agreement with the research institution MIT Media Lab. As a consortium Lab Member, LTTS intends to explore next-generation advancements in artificial intelligence (AI).

As part of the agreement, LTTS will engage in active discussions and information exchange with the Media Lab's cross-disciplinary ecosystem that brings together researchers, innovators and industry leaders.

LTTS said the collaboration not only emphasises practical AI innovation but also accelerates technology-driven advancements by linking LTTS' expertise in AI and engineering with the Media Lab's unique research approach. Together, they intend to explore sustainable engineering solutions that redefine industries, from creating smarter mobility systems to rethinking infrastructure for a greener future.

"We are delighted to join the MIT Media Lab, a dynamic and creative interdisciplinary research sandbox," said Amit Chadha, CEO & Managing Director, L&T Technology Services. "From exploring Agentic AI to early AGI application roadmaps, we are setting a course to shape the future of industries reliant on Mobility, Sustainability and Tech," he said.

About 70% of customer queries now handled by Razorpay's AI assistant

BENGALURU, DHNS: About 70% of customer queries are now handled by fintech unicorn Razorpay's in-house AI assistant, Ray, across multiple languages. Speaking at the inaugural episode of the IndiaAI in Action podcast, the company's co-founder and CEO, Harshil Mathur, said the company is fast-tracking its journey as an AI-first company, embedding artificial intelligence across every function of the organisation.

The podcast comes ahead of the AI Impact Summit 2026, which will bring together heads of state, global AI leaders, and top executives from Big Tech in India to deliberate on the future of AI and its role in shaping inclusive growth.

On AI and jobs, the co-founder drew parallels with earlier technological shifts. "AI will replace some jobs, but it will also create new ones. Just as computerisation changed banking, AI will automate repetitive tasks while opening new opportunities that require higher-order skills," he added.

Harshil Mathur

"AI is a transformational change of our generation — the way social media, mobile, or computers once were," said Harshil Mathur. "For a tech-first company like ours, there is no choice but to embrace AI deeply. Every team at Razorpay, from HR and legal to product and engineering, is integrating AI into daily workflows," Mathur added.

The company provides tools like Gemini to every employee, and it has also built an MCP (model context protocol) server that integrates AI tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini and Replit directly into its systems, enabling merchants to create payment links and complete workflows through simple natural language prompts, Razorpay said.

In May this year, Razorpay shifted its domicile from the US to India. The fintech company is also aiming to go public before the end of CY2026.

DBS Bank India to collect GST payments

MUMBAI, DHNS: DBS Bank India has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an agency bank to collect Goods and Services Tax (GST) payments — making it the only wholly-owned subsidiary of a foreign bank to receive this approval from the RBI.

DBS Bank India will now enable customers to instantly effect GST payments using its digital banking platform for enterprises, DBS IDEAL. On this platform, customers can instantly download GST payment advice, receive real-time transaction status updates, and resolve related queries through dedicated client service support.

In addition to IDEAL-based payments, customers can also make GST payments through NEFT/RTGS or over the counter at the bank's branches, depending on their preference. This offering will not only enable customers to consolidate all commercial and statutory payments but also streamline GST compliance through a robust digital banking platform. "GST compliance is a key priority for enterprises, and at DBS Bank India we are focused on making the process seamless and efficient," said Divyesh Dalal, Managing Director and Country Head – Global Transaction Services, Corporate Banking – Financial Institutions and SMEs, DBS Bank India.

SoftBank Vision Fund mulls 20% job cuts after pivot to AI

BLOOMBERG: SoftBank Group Corp.'s Vision Fund is considering cutting as much as 20% of its staff, a person familiar with the matter said, underscoring a shift in Masayoshi Son's focus to ambitious bets on artificial intelligence.

The unit, which employed about 282 people as of the end of March, may shed more than 50 roles, the person said, asking not to be identified discussing private deliberations.

The reduction extends years of cutbacks as the Vision Fund unit shrank in importance next to Son's growing appetite for big AI bets. Those include a plan to invest about $30 billion in OpenAI and a $6.5 billion deal to acquire chip designer Ampere Computing, which faces regulatory scrutiny. SoftBank has so far invested roughly $10 billion in OpenAI.

The Japanese firm has also partnered OpenAI and Oracle Corp. for the roll-out of a $500 billion Stargate initiative to build AI data centers and other infrastructure across the US. And Son is working on another $1 trillion project to create an AI industrial park and seeking partnership from Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. A Vision Fund spokesperson confirmed job cuts in the offing, without elaborating.

Goyal likely to visit Washington soon for trade talks

NEW DELHI, PTI: With the India-US trade talks moving in the right direction, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is expected to visit Washington soon, sources said.

The visit comes in the backdrop of recently concluded daylong discussions here between US Chief Negotiator Brendan Lynch and his Indian counterpart Rajesh Agrawal on the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

"The commerce minister's visit is likely soon... may be in the next few days... for the trade talks," sources told PTI.

On September 16, the commerce ministry stated that daylong discussions with the visiting US team on a bilateral trade deal were positive, and both sides agreed to push for an early and mutually beneficial conclusion of the agreement.

WHAT PAYS

Interns are making up to Rs 12 lakh a month at trading firms

BLOOMBERG

High-speed trading firms are rapidly increasing pay for entry-level jobs in India, brushing off a regulatory crackdown on the world's biggest equity derivatives market.

Amsterdam-based IMC Trading BV has offered interns in India up to Rs 12.5 lakh a month ($14,182) this year, a threefold jump from 2024, according to people familiar with the matter. Quadeye, one of the biggest recruiters locally, paid newbies up to Rs 7.50 lakh, up 50% from last year, the people said, asking not to be named due to company policy. Indian finance professionals earn an average annual base pay of about Rs 7 lakh, according to Glassdoor.

The hiring push and lavish pay packages continue even as increased regulation to protect the interests of loss-making retail investors has helped curb derivatives trading by more than 40% from a peak last year. That's because of the sheer potential for gains the world's top equity derivatives market by volume has to offer: foreign funds and proprietary trading desks using algorithms made $7 billion in gross profits in the year to March 2024 alone.

"The demand for profitable traders is as strong as ever," said Daniel Vaz, co-head of quant and trading technology recruiting at Aquis Search. "We're getting inquiries to set up new desks almost every month, and there is intense competition to attract top-tier traders, quant researchers and trading system engineers in India."

Global giants and homegrown players aren't backing away even as the Securities and Exchange Board of India looks set to further increase its scrutiny of the market, particularly in the wake of its findings with regard to Jane Street Group LLC.

The regulator in July accused Jane Street entities of using their trading and technological might to influence prices in India's stock and derivatives markets on expiry days, booking hefty profits in the process. The New York-based trading firm — which was temporarily banned from the market by SEBI — has disputed the allegations and is seeking to overturn the order, arguing that it has been denied access to crucial documents it needs to fight accusations of market manipulation.

Brokers providing high-speed trading services such as Estee Advisors and iRage Broking Services LLP say that while these recent events have made some potential clients cautious, there is still a steady pipeline of companies looking to enter this segment.

Bengaluru-based Optimus Prime Securities & Research has scaled up its HFT operations recently, according to people familiar with the matter. The Bilakhia Group, which has business interests in healthcare and education technology, is also planning to expand into such trades with Minix Holdings, one of the people said.

Quadeye and IMC declined to comment for this story. Optimus and Minix didn't respond to emails seeking comments.

Meanwhile, billionaire Ken Griffin's Citadel Securities hired an options trader in India last month and plans to add more staff to bolster its operations, Bloomberg reported. The Miami-based firm opened its office in Gurugram in 2022 and has more than a dozen employees there after hiring a chief operating officer and head of trading this year. Citadel and trading firm Tower Research are also buying minority stakes in India's National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd.

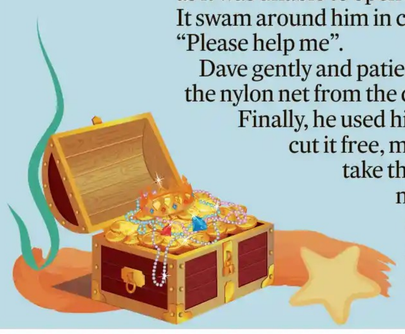
Dave, Dolly and the deep sea

Ashrafi Antia writes about an extraordinary friendship between a diver and a dolphin in Shark Bay

Diving was Dave's passion. He was a strong swimmer. He had decided at a young age that he would study marine biology and make diving his profession. Dave felt completely at home underwater. To him it was a magical world filled with fascinating, colourful sea creatures.

On a dive in Shark Bay one day, a young dolphin swam upto him and nudged him. It had some fishing net entangled tightly around its beak-like mouth. Dave realised the poor bottlenose dolphin would starve as it was unable to open its mouth to feed. It swam around him in circles as if to say, "Please help me".

Dave gently and patiently untangled the nylon net from the dolphin's snout. Finally, he used his pen knife to cut it free, making sure to take the nasty piece of net with him, lest some other poor sea creature suffer a similar fate. The dolphin rubbed against him affectionately, emitting a high-pitched squeak almost like a whistle, as if to say, "Thank you for helping me".



That day, the dolphin accompanied Dave throughout his dive; eventually rising to the surface with him. Leaping out of the water, it flipped its tail as if waving goodbye, before disappearing into the depths of the ocean.

The next time Dave was diving in the same area, who do you think came to greet him? Dave recognised the young bottlenose dolphin whom he had rescued swimming towards him. When he reached out to her, she came to him unafraid, allowing him to stroke her. She treated him like a friend and even introduced him to the rest of her pod who accepted him as one of them. They swam around him playfully, occasionally slapping him mischievously with their tails whilst communicating with each other using strange clicks and whistle-like sounds.

Dave named his newfound dolphin friend Dolly. One day, whilst studying a starfish hiding behind an anemone, Dave's vision was obscured by a shroud of swirling sand. From the corner of his eye, he spied Dolly with a Sponge on her beak resembling a clown's nose. His first thought was that she was protecting her snout after the earlier accident with the net. Later, it dawned on him that she was using the sponge to protect her delicate beak from sharp rocks whilst she shovelled through rubble at the bottom of the sea bed, stirring up swirls of sand, exposing hidden barred sand-perch, which she hungrily made a meal of.

"Wow, that's really smart," thought Dave. Soon he saw other dolphins in Dolly's pod adopting the same technique. He was thrilled to have discovered that dolphins are intelligent enough to use the sponge as a tool to avoid getting hurt whilst searching for food. He wrote a paper on it and called the technique 'sponging'.

Once, Dave saw the dolphin pod boisterously playing ball with a poor puffer fish, using their noses to toss it amongst themselves. When he swam closer, they tossed it to him. Kind-hearted Dave, let the poor puffer fish swim away to safety, much to the chagrin of the juvenile dolphin gang.

Whilst chasing a particularly elusive octopus one day, Dave forgot to check the time and stayed underwater for too long. As usual, Dolly was swimming besides him, when suddenly he realised his oxygen tank was running extremely low. Dolly saw him struggling to breathe, flailing his arms and sensed something was wrong. She swam close enough for Dave to grab her dorsal fin and shot up like a torpedo towards the surface with Dave clinging on for dear life. Dolly had sensed the urgency in Dave to come up for air and came to his rescue. Thus Dolly saved Dave from drowning.

He hugged her gratefully in thanks. "You saved me," he spluttered, still gasping for air. It was as though Dolly had returned the favour for the time Dave saved her.

As if that were not thanks enough, Dolly swam over to Dave, on another one of his diving expeditions with a pearl chain on her snout and pushed it into his hand. "What's this girl? Where did you find this?" Dave exclaimed stroking Dolly. As if she understood what he was saying, Dolly swam ahead, turning around at intervals to check that Dave was following her and led him to a chest filled with old coins hidden amongst the tall seagrass.

Dave couldn't believe his eyes. The wood from the old casket had rotted away over the years to reveal the treasure it held. Strewn on the sea floor were gold coins and gems of varied hues sparkling amongst the grains of sand, all hidden by the screen of seagrass.

Dave had discovered a sunken treasure thanks to Dolly but to him discovering and getting to know Dolly and her dolphin friends was even more valuable. After all, he owed her his life. Theirs was a friendship he cherished more than any treasure. He ensured that a vast sum of money from the treasure was used towards the protection and conservation of dolphins in Shark Bay.

2 DIY ART using paper cups

... and some basic stationery

Giraffe in a jungle

Materials needed
- Paper cup: 1
- Coloured paper (yellow, orange, green)
- Googly eyes
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Black marker
- Cardboard sheet
- Optional: paint or markers for spots

Method
1) Start by making the giraffe's head. Take one paper cup and cut it vertically into two pieces through the middle. Take one half, glue two small paper horns (ossicones) and ears made from yellow paper on top of the cup.
2) Add googly eyes or draw eyes with a marker. Use orange paper bits or paint to make spots on the head.
3) Use the other half of the cup to create the body. Decorate it with orange spots using coloured paper or paint.
4) Cut two thin strips of yellow paper and glue them at the bottom of the second cup as the giraffe's legs.
5) Stick the head slightly above the body on a cardboard sheet so they look like a giraffe.
6) Draw the giraffe's mouth and nose with a black marker.
7) Cut out long green paper leaves and glue them around the giraffe to make it look like it's in a jungle.
8) Let everything dry, and your giraffe project is ready.

African huts

Materials needed
- Paper cups: 2
- Cupcake liners: 2
- Acrylic paints, sketch pens, or markers
- Black marker
- Paintbrushes
- Glue

Method
1) Take a paper cup and place it upside down, with the open rim at the bottom. This is the base of your hut.
2) Use acrylic paints or markers to colour the outside of the paper cup. Choose earthy tones (orange, brown, grey) to resemble traditional African huts.
3) With a black marker or paint, draw a large arched door in the middle. Add small rectangular or square windows around the cup.
4) Draw traditional tribal-like patterns (zig-zags, diamonds and triangles) around the walls.
5) Use bright colours like red, blue, green, or yellow in these patterns to give them a vibrant look.
6) Place a cupcake liner upside down on top of the cup's rim to depict a thatched roof. Secure it with a dab of glue so it stays in place. According to your preference, you can paint the liner brown.
7) Give finishing touches to your hut, by adding outlines to patterns with a black marker for a sharper look.
8) Repeat with another cup. Let the paint dry completely before displaying.

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic: 'Should schools start later in the morning?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on October 2. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

quintessential

(adjective)
— a perfect or typical representation of a quality or class.

Usage:
— Eliza, the quintessential storyteller, could turn any trip into an adventure saga.
— Preety looked the quintessential Indian bride in her grandmother's saree.

'The world's bright future shines in me...'

Open Sesame readers use poetry to describe their special powers

Elephant: My guiding light

At twelve, I find the elephant as my guide,
my superpower, who makes me strong deep inside.
From its mighty trunk, I learn to be strong,
lifting my dreams, I carry along.
Its big heart teaches me to care,
for friends and family, I'm always there.
Its sharp memory makes me study and learn,
where every fact sticks, my mind doesn't turn.
Its steady steps tell me not to fear,
and face every challenge with a cheer.
The elephant-power lights up my way,
inspiring me to shine every single day!
– **KAMAKSHI ALOK KALE, 12**
Pune, Maharashtra

Mysterious sketches

Tightened clouds with a tint of blue
Sunkissed by the golden hue,
Rays allowing the colour splash,
Hence the white and bow divinely clash.
I love fresh sketches that freely flourish,
Deep inside my mysterious mind,
These are petty imaginations that I cherish,
They grow and around happiness I find.
Once I sketched an adventurous camp,
Where the past maths was my bad posture,
Hence I solved sums under this blazing lamp,
All blue, there, including in the far future.
– **YASHASWWINI N, 14**
Uttara Kannada, Karnataka

'I am my power'

I am Samanvita, a spark set free,
The world's bright future shines in me.
My superpower is daring to try,
To rise from the ground and reach the sky.
I turn my failures into my wings,
And conquer the hardest impossible things.
My heart holds kindness, my spirit holds light,
Together they guide me through the darkest night.
I paint my dreams in colours anew,
And prove with each step what courage can do.
No crown, no cape, just truth I empower,
For I am Samanvita, I am my power!
– **SAMANVITA SRINIVAS BHUJJI, 15**
Kalaburagi, Karnataka

Reading helps me...

Reading is my superpower,
When I open every book's cover.
A book comes in handy,
When I need some candy.
A book is written by an author's pen,
And is a gift that I can reopen.
Reading helps me unwind,
By clearing my mind.
After all, it's my superpower!
– **INBA, 9**
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Teleportation

Let's teleport to Bengaluru,
There we'll go to Cubbon Park,
We'll go to Bangalore Palace,
We'll go to Snow city and more.
Let's teleport to Kerala,
There we'll go to Alappuzha,
We'll go to Kochi,
We'll go to Ponmudi and more.
Let's teleport to Goa,
There we'll go to Dudhsagar Falls,
We'll go to Pololem beach,
We'll go to Butterfly beach and more.
– **RIYA WALIKAR, 9**
Dharwad, Karnataka

ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme 'Mahatma Gandhi's Charkha' to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on September 25.

This Week:

Beyond Belmopan

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 On September 21, 1981, Belize attained freedom from British rule. It is the only mainland central American country that remains a Commonwealth realm. Who is the head of state of Belize?

Q2 In 1961, which deadly cyclone destroyed large parts of Belize City, so that Belmopan (specially designed and constructed for the purpose) replaced it as the capital of Belize?

Q3 Mexico formally recognised Belize as soon as it became independent. Which other neighbouring country, engaged in a border dispute with Belize, only admitted its sovereignty, ten years later?

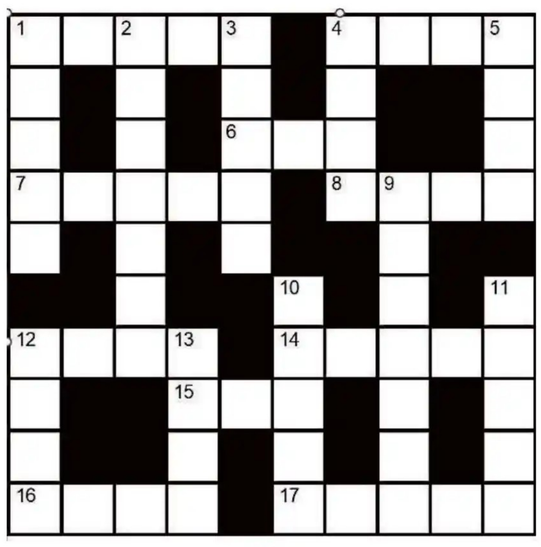
Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: First prime minister of independent Belize: George Cadle __.
Clue B: Old-fashioned word for 'three times': __

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Who is acclaimed in Belize on the Monday closest to his birthday, March 9? Use these clues:
a) Benefactor
b) Title
c) Yacht
d) Lighthouse

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Rani Samyukta (16), Dharwad; Sharvani (13), Mysuru; Vignesh S (15), Bengaluru.

CROSSWORD

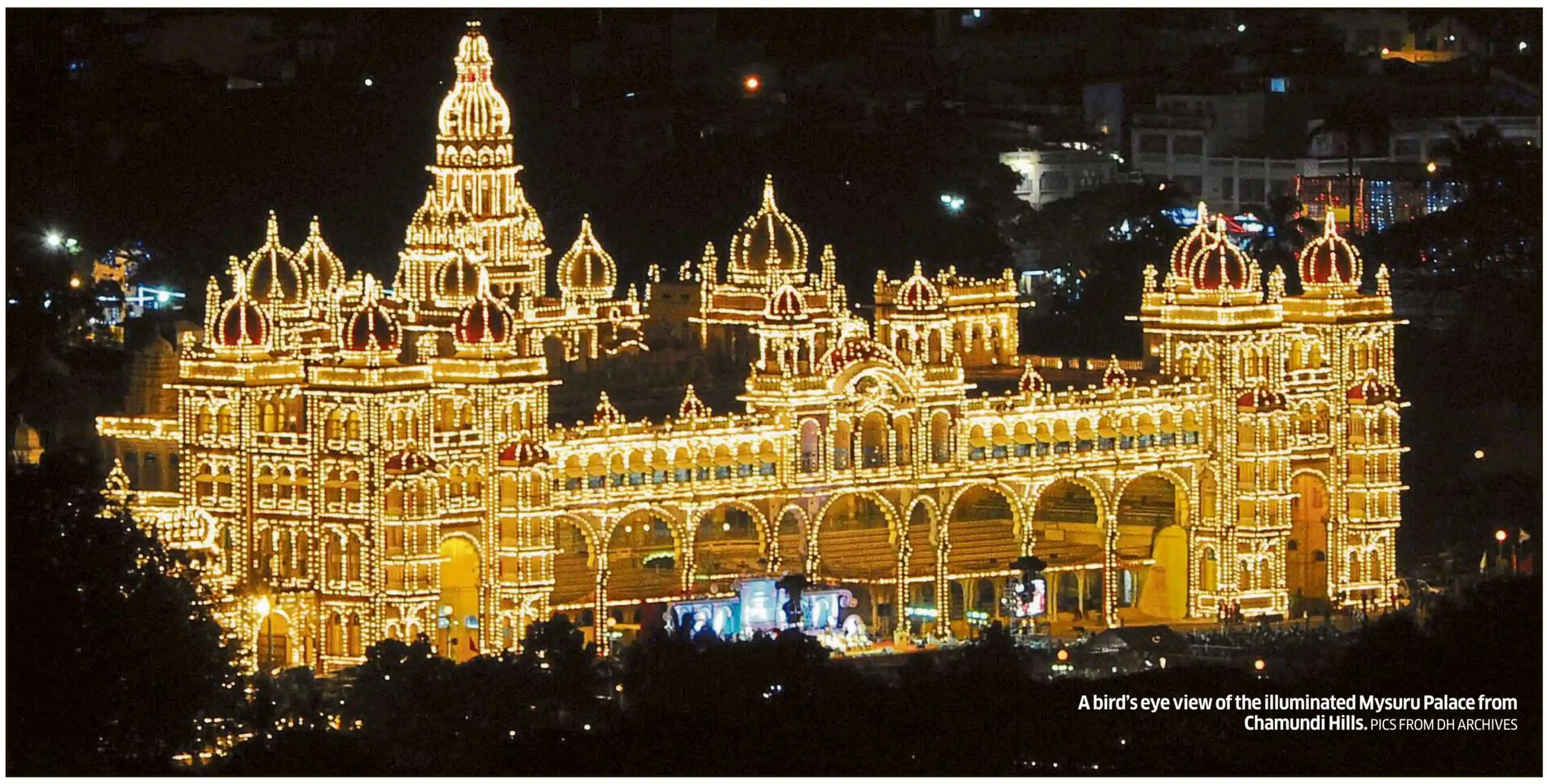


BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across
1 Stop (5)
4 Drop down (4)
6 Call for help (3)
7 By oneself (5)
8 Sodium chloride (4)
12 Strikes (4)
14 Hurry (5)
15 Flightless bird (3)
16 Ascend (4)
17 Start (5)

Down
1 Free from dirt (5)
2 Gymnast (7)
3 Artist's stand (5)
4 Bother (4)
5 Departed (4)
9 Funny (7)
10 Part of the hand (5)
11 A prime number (5)
12 Listen (4)
13 Dried (4)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 Cease, 4 Fall, 6 SOS, 7 Alone, 8 Salt, 12 Hits, 14 Haste, 15 Emu, 16 Rise, 17 Begin.
Down: 1 Clean, 2 Acrobat, 3 Easel, 4 Fuss, 5 Left, 9 Amusing, 10 Thumb, 11 Seven, 12 Hear, 13 Sere.



A bird's eye view of the illuminated Mysuru Palace from Chamundi Hills. PICS FROM DH ARCHIVES

The lasting romance of

Mysuru Dasara

T R Sathish Kumar brings you sights and sounds from the city of palaces as it gears up for a festival whose origins go back at least four centuries

In the 29 years that I have been a journalist, I have covered the Dasara celebrations in Mysuru for 15 years, and seen it grow bigger and bigger. Today, the Jamboo Savari (elephant procession) alone draws about two lakh visitors. Hotel rates shoot up during the season and fast food chains have proliferated. But folk culture hasn't vanished. Vendors go around selling old world delights, such as fried groundnuts and coconut burfi.

I hail from Pandavapura in Mandya district. But Mysuru is located closer to us than the town of Mandya. And it was far easier to reach in those days — by car, train, and the black-and-yellow Ambassador taxi, now phased out.

Because of this proximity, we often hosted relatives during the Dasara mid-term break. We would ferry them to Srirangapatna and Mysuru, ticking off the must-see sights: the Ranganathaswamy temple, Tipu's dungeon, the Srirangapatna fort, Juma Masjid, the Mysuru palace, Chamundi Hill, and the Brindavan Gardens. In the 1970s and 80s, we took tongas (horse carts) and taxis.

For most people, the Jamboo Savari, held in the afternoon on Vijayadashami, is the first memory of Dasara. For me, it was the Dasara exhibition, originally intended for farmers and industrialists to showcase their innovations. I still remember the thrill of seeing a working train model sometime around 1977. By Class I, I was proudly clutching a toy motorbike powered by elastic potential energy. In 1980, I added a little steam boat to my collection.

My first clear memory of the Jamboo Savari comes from 1983. My father pointed to the caparisoned elephant and recalled how, in his younger days, he had seen the last Maharaja, Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar, and his son, Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar, riding the ambari, the gold-plated howdah (seat), on which the idol of goddess Chamundeshwari is now mounted instead. Around us, the streets were alive with spectacle — garudi gombe dancers in giant doll suits, stilt walkers, and even a tableau warning against tobacco use.

Subsequently, for many years, I saw the procession only on *Doordarshan*. My next close-up view came in 1990, after I moved to Mysuru for studies. I had rented a room on Kshetraiah Road in Krishnaraja Mohalla, nestling between the palace and my college. That year, four childhood friends (now a doctor, advocate, health officer, and agriculture scientist) came visiting. We walked to Sayyaji Rao Road where my father used to take me. We perched on the compound wall of Mysuru Medical College for an unhindered view — you were always met with hands eager to help you up. As the ambari-bearing elephant passed, we leapt onto the road. We wanted to follow it to Bannimantapa for the torchlight parade, the grand Dasara finale which features police bands, bike stunts, and fireworks. But the police came charging with lathis. We scattered, but somehow found each other in the crowd, and made it to Bannimantapa in time for the dazzling show.

In 1990, entry to the Dasara Film Festival, which would screen Kannada classics like 'Satya Harischandra' and 'Sri Krishnadevaraya' was dirt cheap, at just Re 1, but I missed them all. That regret was nothing when compared to what happened the next day. On September 30, as we were returning from the Mysuru zoo, we saw garlanded photos of actor Shankar Nag appearing on the streets. He had died in a car crash.

Despite the larger crowds now, the energy feels subdued. In my time, people were dressed in their best attire, kids showed off newly acquired toys, and strangers joined lively discussions about the Maharajas.

Fairytale bathtub

I returned to Mysuru in 1998; this time as a correspondent. Back then, the Dasara elephants walked a couple of kilometres from the palace for their ritual bath. For the calves, a small concrete pond was built on the palace grounds. My front-page story on this 'fairytale bathtub', accompanied by a photograph I can no longer recall how I sourced or sent to Bengaluru, earned me one of my earliest bylines on Dasara. In those days, stories were handwritten and sent by fax.

The coverage got better when I, along with two colleagues from Bengaluru, had the rare opportunity to witness the private durbar of Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar. Though it was past the era of royalty, the family continued the Dasara tradition of offering puja to the throne. It felt like time travel, and looked like a scene from Rajkumar's period film 'Mayura'. The maharaja walked to the throne, gave it a salute, and the state anthem was played. In that regal setting, with the fragrance of jasmine, rose, and agarbatti wafting around us, the three of us felt out of place in our contemporary attire. We wrote the first mainstream newspaper report about the private durbar. Until then, I had read about it only in a Kannada weekly.

There was a 13-year gap in my Dasara reporting until I moved permanently to Mysuru in 2011. By then, Dasara had changed. The crowds had grown, and many journalists, now armed with mobile phones, were clicking pictures. For a journalist, the annual coverage can feel repetitive, even boring. But we do stumble on unexpected stories, when we find forgotten details about the festivities. There is always something new to learn about Mysuru Dasara.

Origin theories

While records of Mysuru Dasara exist only from the time of the Vijayanagara empire, Shalva Pille Iyengar, professor of archaeology and ancient history, suggests that the Vijayanagara kings likely adapted it from Hoysala empire traditions.

In 1610, Raja Wadiyar of the Yadu dynasty established Dasara as a religious observance at Srirangapatna. His successors expanded its scope. Ranadhira Kanteerava Narasaraja Wadiyar (1638–1659) added grandeur with elaborate rituals. Later, Chikkadevaraja Wadiyar (1673–1704) turned Dasara into a public carnival, featuring music and art, attracting people from neighbouring areas. After Tipu Sultan's death in 1799, Mummadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar (1799–1868) moved the celebrations to Mysuru along with the royal capital.

In more recent history, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar (1902–1940), known as the Rajarshi or 'saint king', gave a modern spin to Dasara by enhancing public participation. He strengthened the Dasara Exhibition, initiated by his father Chamarajendra Wadiyar to showcase the state's agricultural and industrial prosperity. Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar also promoted Dasara as a display of the kingdom's achievements, especially for the West, Iyengar notes.

Researcher and writer Praveen Kumar Mavinakadu traces Dasara's origins to the founding of the Vijayanagara empire. "When the Hakka-Bukka duo established their kingdom, their subjects had been reeling from decades of oppression by invaders (the Delhi Sultanate). The rulers chose Vijayadashami to showcase their military strength, signalling that the new empire could protect its people," he said.

That martial display gradually evolved into a cultural celebration, notes V Ranganatha, retired tahsildar and writer with a PhD on Mysuru Dasara. Feudatories visiting the Vijayanagara capital camped outside with large entourages. While the chiefs attended palace rituals and the royal durbar, their retinues entertained themselves with martial arts, music, and dance, he adds.

People's initiative

In 1970, Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar halted public Dasara celebrations following the abolition of the privy purse — the stipend paid by the Indian government to rulers of merged princely states. Citizens then took the festival into their own hands, marking the start of the 'People's Dasara'. Kannada activist and writer Na Nagalingaswamy, along with members of Kannada Kranthidala, launched a movement protesting the Maharaja's decision. They placed a sandalwood idol of Chamundeshwari in a wooden howdah borrowed from the palace. Some historians suggest the idol was of Bhuvaneshwari, symbolising Karnataka (then Mysuru State).

By 1971, a group of activists, politicians and industrialists, led by D Jayadevaraja Urs, B C Lingaiah, and F K Irani (he owned the company that made Jawa motorbikes) took up the cause. They carried the Chamundeshwari idol in the Jamboo Savari until 1974. The following year, the state government sponsored the first official Jamboo Savari under chief minister D Devaraj Urs. An image of Bharat Mata followed the elephant in an open jeep, adding a national dimension to the festivities.

From 1975 to 1998, the procession was inaugurated by chief ministers, vice presidents, or governors. In 1984, a new tradition began: Dasara was inaugurated atop Chamundi Hill. Since 1999, the honour has expanded to include renowned personalities from various fields. Booker-winning Kannada writer Banu Mushtaq is inaugurating it this year.

Kuvempu's POV

There are claims that the renowned poet Kuvempu opposed Dasara, citing its feudal character. Retired DCP J B Rangaswamy recalls a conversation with writer Chanduranga — a close associate of Kuvempu — who believed the poet's view was more nuanced. "Kuvempu felt that such utsavas were necessary to unite people from all walks of life," he said.

The lights, which are put up days before and stay on after the festival, have become a major attraction. Roads within a 2 km radius of the palace are packed with visitors. Fewer foreign tourists visit now compared to decades ago, and most come from European countries such as Italy, Norway, Sweden, France, and Germany.

Ranganatha said, "Earlier, the illumination had a purpose. People waited for the Maharaja to return from Bannimantapa after the Jamboo Savari. The main road was lit so everyone could get a clear view." And the Wadiyars, who pioneered Asia's first major hydroelectric plant at Shivanasamudra, illuminated the palace as a symbol of progress. N Shashishekara Dixith, the eighth-generation chief priest of Sri Chamundeshwari Devi Temple (atop the Chamundi Hill), says the Navaratri puja was performed inside the temple but later moved outdoors, becoming a grand public event attended by ministers and dignitaries. The temple was once a private worship space for royalty, but today, it draws thousands daily.

For musicians, performing at the palace courtyard remains prestigious, and wrestlers still fiercely compete for kusti titles.

Ranganatha believes newer crowd-pulling events like Yuva Dasara, a youth-focused cultural festival featuring artistes like A R Rahman, are better held on other occasions such as World Tourism Day. Even renowned violinist Mysore Manjunath once said the palace should be reserved for classical music and dance, since film and contemporary music have multiple venues elsewhere.

Gentle giants

Equally central to Dasara is Gajapayana, the ceremonial march of elephants from the forest camps to the city of palaces. It serves as a symbolic prelude to the festivities and is often referred to as 'Mini Dasara'. The event represents a deep-rooted connection between city folk and forest-dwelling communities, with the elephants serving as a living bridge. "The Wadiyar kings would visit the forests and personally invite elephant caretakers to participate in Dasara," explained S V Prahallad Rao, priest of the Sri Athmavilasa Ganapathi temple in the palace building.

I have reported on Dasaras that featured legendary golden howdah-carriers like Drona, Balarama, and Arjuna. My father would fondly speak of the towering 12-foot Biligiriranga, a favourite of Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar. They say Jayamarthanda, after whom the eastern entrance of the Mysuru palace is named, was the favourite of Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

Mahisha Dasara

As Mysuru gears up for its 415th Dasara in 2025, I find myself sharing stories of the festival with my son, like my father did with me; stories of how it has evolved over time.

Dasara has been scaled down on several occasions due to extraordinary events. Natural calamities such as the Gujarat earthquake in 2001 and droughts in Karnataka in 2002, 2011, and 2012 turned it into a simple affair, while the shadow of farmers' suicides tempered the celebrations in 2015 and 2016. During the pandemic, the elephant procession was confined to the palace grounds and dedicated to Covid warriors.

Since 2015, a parallel celebration has taken root. Mahisha Dasara is being promoted by Dalit and rationalist groups. Organisers from the Mahisha Dasara Aacharana Samiti maintain that it is not meant as a protest against the celebrations, but as a tribute to Mahishasura. They regard him not as a demon but a historical figure, a Buddhist ruler who was sent by Emperor Ashoka to spread Buddhism in the Mysuru region. The official Karnataka Gazetteer urges caution about the belief. Mahisha Dasara was banned under BJP rule but it was resumed in 2023. This year, it is being held as the Mahisha Mandala Dhammotsava.

This year, Mysuru Dasara will be celebrated from September 22 to October 2.

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An image from *DH's* archives captures the beginning of the Dasara procession at the Mysuru Palace in 1969.

Today, the Jamboo Savari draws international and national tourists, in addition to Mysuru residents.

Since the early 1970s, an idol of goddess Chamundeshwari is carried in the howdah during the Jamboo Savari.

MUSICANA

Taking the tradition of dhol tasha to urban audiences

A new troupe is popularising the 16th-century Maharashtrian art form in Bengaluru, writes Rashmi Rajagopal

A musical group, formed in February 2025, is attempting to popularise a 16th century Maharashtrian genre — dhol tasha pathak — in Bengaluru. Called Shivmalhar Dhol Tasha Pathak, it was founded by Girish Gowardhan and Mandar Dhamale.

"Around the 16th-17th centuries, primarily in the Maratha empire, dhol tasha was performed during battles and celebrations. Later, in the 19th century, dhol tasha troupes started gaining popularity and the genre became synonymous with Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations," explains Gowardhan.

After moving from Pune to Bengaluru for work, Gowardhan found himself missing the performances, which are common during Ganesh Chaturthi in Maharashtra. "I would travel there just for the music," he says. Dhamale was also going through a similar experience in Bengaluru. Both Gowardhan and Dhamale were part of dhol tasha troupes back in Pune. "Despite being neighbourhood troupes, we met for the first time at a dhol tasha workshop held at Maharashtra Mandal Bengaluru in 2022. We met, jammed and hit it off right from the start," he recalls.

Typically, the performance involves the use of two types of drums — dhol and tasha — which are slung across the player's body. The high energy performances see the drummers forming a circle to play the music. It is usually performed in outdoor spaces. However, the Shivmalhar group has also been performing on invitation at corporate and other private events. Apart from Ganesh Chaturthi, it is also performed during Navaratri, Gudi Padwa and Janmashtami.

While traditionally, the music hinges heavily on fast-paced rhythmic beats, Shivmalhar also experiments with other folk music forms of India and Western music. "We use complex polyrhythms, which are influenced by progressive metal. This is rarely seen in this cultural form," says Gowardhan.

The troupes are significantly large in number. Shivmalhar began the festive season with 42 members. They now have 26 new performers, he reveals. "They range in age from 7 to 60, and the women outnumber the men," he shares. None of the members are paid. "They are in it just for the passion. The money we make is spent on the maintenance of the instruments, purchasing equipment from Pune, practice sessions, food and travel," he shares. The group was initially apprehensive about presenting the traditional art form to a cosmopolitan audience. But the response has been "phenomenal". During Ganesh Chaturthi, they received over 40 enquiries and ended up performing at 11 venues over five days. They have also been receiving requests from Hyderabad, Davangere and Raichur.

Apart from performing, they also hold workshops for those interested in learning the art form.

The troupe performed at a mall in Bengaluru recently.

Ticket rate cap reignites 'affordability vs profitability' debate

Cinema, once called the 'common man's entertainment', faces new challenges in the age of pricing wars, writes Pranati A S

Movie watching in Karnataka is again in the midst of an 'affordability vs commerce' debate. The Karnataka government last week formally capped movie ticket prices at a maximum of Rs 200 (excluding taxes) across all theatres and multiplexes in the state (excluding those offering premium facilities with less than 75 seats). It was notified under the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2025.

The Multiplex Association of India, multiplex chain PVR Inox, and production companies Hombale Films, V K Films and Keystone Entertainment have filed a petition in the Karnataka High Court calling the government's order "anti-business". The case is currently in court.

The government had made a similar attempt in 2017. Even then, multiplex chains and exhibitors challenged it in court, and legal and political pressure led to a relaxation of the cap. Theatres have since continued to exploit the public.

When 'RRR' released in 2022, a movie buff remembers paying Rs 2,000 to watch the first show at a leading theatre on M G Road in Bengaluru. Prices for subsequent shows that weekend ranged from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 in multiplexes as well as some single screen theatres. Similar pricing is observed in many Bengaluru theatres, especially for first-day shows of big star movies.

M Narasimhalu, president of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, believes high ticket prices are why people aren't flocking to theatres like they used to.

Tamil Nadu status

In Chennai, ticket prices at multiplexes on a Friday can be as low as Rs 57. The maximum charge is Rs 183.

According to Naveen Rajanna, who owns Sri Manjunatha Talkies in Hosur, air-conditioned theatres in Tamil Nadu have a Rs 200 cap (excluding premium seats), and non-air-conditioned theatres Rs 100. The front two rows, earlier known as the Gandhi class, are charged at Rs 57. Naveen says prices remain unchanged even for big star releases. And this has been the case for years.

"Movie watching culture in Tamil Nadu is far bigger than in Karnataka, and that is why lower ticket prices work in the exhibitors' favour," says an industry insider. They believe a major advantage of the Karnataka cap is that it will ensure equal screen allocation for films in all languages at multiplexes.

According to the '50-40-30' profit model in Indian film distribution, exhibitors and distributors split profits 50-50 in week one. In weeks two and three, the distributor gets 40% and 30%, while exhibitors get 60% and 70%. With Karnataka lacking a strong film watching culture, this model makes profitability difficult for producers, unlike in Tamil Nadu.

The Rs 200 ceiling on tickets is being implemented ahead of the release of Rishab Shetty's much-awaited 'Kantara: Chapter 1'. The film hits screens on October 2.

Multiplex strategy

Senior journalist S Shyam Prasad believes multiplexes are exploiting Bengaluru's migrant population. "For most, the only way to stay connected to their state is by watching movies. Multiplexes are exploiting this sentiment by pricing tickets very high," he notes. An industry source adds, "Most Tamilians living in Bengaluru will perhaps pay even Rs 1,000 to watch a Rajinikanth film on the first day."

There are very few Kannada films that can command such prices — 'KGF', 'Kantara', and 'Toxic'.

Producer Uday K Mehta says while he supports the government's rule, he expects some flexibility for productions with budgets above Rs 100 crore. "Our market is very small. With a cap on ticket prices, recovery is very difficult," he explains.

Addressing the burden on the common man, the 'Martin' producer says, "The general audience can watch the film after a few days of release or on OTT and television." However, Shyam notes, first-day shows are watched by fans, and high rates on those days exploit them.

Multiplex owners observe Hindi and Telugu audiences spend more on food and drinks than others, which brings in extra revenue. This is one reason why multiplexes prefer adding more screens for Hindi and Telugu films in Bengaluru.

Cinema has long been considered the common man's entertainment. "Not everybody could afford to go to a Broadway show. Movie tickets were priced a nickel (five cents) and that's why theatres were called Nickelodeons in the early 20th century," Shyam notes.

It can be an excellent assistant, and also gives good feedback, they tell Chintan Girish Modi

Screenwriters embracing AI

but with caveats and concerns

The steady rise and evolution of artificial intelligence (AI), which earlier created panic across film industries — also led to a 148-day long strike by the Writers Guild of America in 2023 — is now becoming more common among screenwriters.

But how are they approaching it? Do they see it as a tool to befriend, an enemy to fight, or an inevitable stage in human development that they need to adapt to? What are they doing to protect their creativity and also keep up with the changes in technology?

Deepu Sebastian Edmond, who worked as a researcher on OTT shows such as the second season of 'Jamtara' (2022), 'Scoop' (2023) and 'IC814: The Kandahar Hijack' (2024), uses ChatGPT as a "sounding board and discussion partner" for new ideas as well as first drafts. "It gives me useful recommendations on books that I need to read and videos that I must watch when I want to learn about a subject in depth," he shares. He points out that it is important to be discerning while using AI because "it can also make up facts". To guard against this, he asks ChatGPT to cite sources along with information. His training as a journalist has prepared him to think critically, examine multiple sources, and verify information instead of trusting everything that AI offers him.

When he tried using ChatGPT to write and rewrite scenes, the results were so disappointing that he decided never to go down that route again. "If you ask ChatGPT to write a scene, what it provides sounds derivative because it cannot create out of thin air. It can only give you an aggregation of what's already out there. I want my writing to have my own stamp," he says.

It is understandable that creators want to assert their originality. Anu Singh Choudhary, who wrote the screenplay and dialogues for 'Mrs' (2024), and all three seasons of the web series 'Aarya' (2020-2024), says that AI is "not a substitute for human creativity, life experience and emotional intelligence" but it can be "an excellent assistant" if one needs feedback on character notes, beat sheets, screenplays and dialogues on successive drafts, or research inputs with citation of sources. "If you know your craft, you can use AI to up your game as a creator. But if you are lazy with your prompts, you are bound to get trite results," she notes.

Like other screenwriters, Anu was resistant to AI at first. Her attitude changed after Meru Gokhale, former publisher at Penguin Random House India, invited her to use Editrix, an AI-powered editing tool, for a book that Anu is working on. "My mental blocks cleared away when I tried it out for myself, and saw how it could help me expedite my work as an author. Then I tried it out even as a screenwriter," adds Anu. Having started with ChatGPT with some basic prompts on research, fact-checking and editing, she now uses Claude and experiments with platforms like Suno, Canva and Midjourney for storyboarding and visual storytelling.

Sneha Desai, who wrote the screenplay and dialogues of 'Laapataa Ladies' (2024), and co-wrote the web series 'Maharaj' (2024), has not jumped on the AI bandwagon but wants to "educate" herself to reap its benefits. "I hear that it can be a great clerical tool. It can take the drudgery and exhaustion out of your work, and free up your time for creative tasks," she says.

Showtime generated a storyboard on ChatGPT. The prompt was: Create a storyboard of a shot for a romantic Bollywood film where the hero is fighting the villain to save the heroine.

She is not scared that AI will make human beings redundant because "technology cannot bring to the table what human beings do, in terms of cultural understanding and emotional sensitivity". But she acknowledges that work like storyboarding and writing character graphs, which is often outsourced to junior writers and ghost writers, will increasingly be done using AI. She believes that, at some point, AI will become a leveller because everybody will have access to it, and the key differentiator between one person and another will be their own creativity.

Abhinandan Gupta, who co-wrote the web series 'Freedom at Midnight' (2024), believes that "human endeavour has to be protected because that's what distinguishes art from content". He has not explored any AI tools other than ChatGPT yet. "Earlier, one used Google for research but ChatGPT is a lot better if you know how to ask pointed questions. The search results are not 100% reliable but you can get a quick snapshot and then dig deeper," he says. According to him, AI cannot compete with the rigour of going to an archive and poring over documents on one's own.

Generally, he asks trusted friends to read his work and give feedback but people are not always free to respond quickly, so he turns to ChatGPT. He admits that there is a lot of AI-related paranoia in the film industry because people are worried about being rendered obsolete and irrelevant, and having their jobs taken over by AI. "I don't think that AI can replace original thought or create independently yet," he adds, insisting that "yet" is the operative word.

"Cinema is constantly evolving, and adapting to a new technology like AI takes time. There is a lot of fear but people are getting past that and trying to understand how AI works," says Sudeep Nigam, who co-wrote the film 'Sherdil: The Pilibhit Saga' (2022) and wrote the show 'Buried Truth: The Indrani Mukerjea Story' (2024). As a screenwriting teacher at Whistling Woods International, a Mumbai-based film school, he tells his students that AI as a tool can benefit them if they use it responsibly to enhance their work. "Indian films have borrowed heavily from Russian and European cinema, as well as Hollywood in the past. Now, some screenwriters are using AI as a shortcut in order to avoid thinking for themselves. AI is here to stay but protecting your creative voice from dying out is something that you owe yourself as a creator," he adds.

(The author is a Mumbai-based journalist, educator and literary critic)

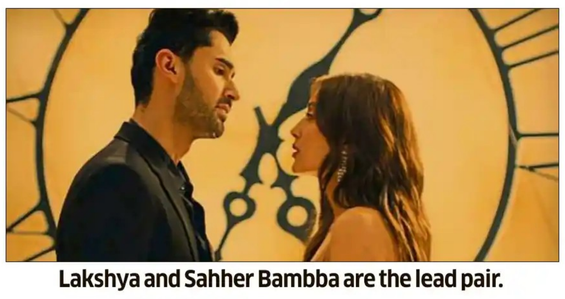
FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

Anu Singh Choudhary, who wrote the screenplay and dialogues for the Sushmita Sen-starrer web series 'Aarya', says that AI can be an excellent assistant.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Nepo babies and satire in sequins

RASHMI VASUDEVA



Lakshya and Sahher Bambba are the lead pair.

★★★☆☆

The Ba*ds of Bollywood**

Hindi (Netflix)

Director: Aryan Khan

Cast: Bobby Deol, Lakshya, Sahher Bambba, Manoj Pahwa

At one point in the series, Maheep Kapoor and 'nepo-baby' Shanaya are posing in front of paps, and Maheep hisses: "Smile beta, don't be like Aryan Khan".

At this point, the series has reached the edge of ennui, but this little meta exchange makes you grin. That, in short, is how Aryan Khan's debut directorial venture is — it trips and falls often but brushes off, gets up and smirks nonchalantly. It's perpetually keen to showcase its flaws and air its director's pet peeves and loves. This is Aryan saying to the world — see, I am so in-your-face and I will keep shoving that attitude down your throat. The self-awareness and wink-nudge references become a bit much after a while. 'The Studio' (Apple TV) and Zoya Akhtar's 'Luck by Chance' (2009) are similar attempts but are sharper and more satirical.

This is a bold take, certainly, especially with its nods to Aryan's own arrest, Bollywood's fakery and absurdities and, yeah, nepotism. Karan Johar does a wonderfully entertaining extended cameo, and there's enough star power here to keep you till the last episode, including an SRK appearance. In fact, longtime fans of Shah Rukh will recognise his sensibilities and sense of humour both in the writing and the presentation. But it is the second half that is overcooked and mawkish. From the 5th episode, it careens off-track as badly as Bobby Deol, playing a somewhat has-been superstar Ajay Talvar, does in his pink Ferrari in the film's climactic chase.

The actual leads, Lakshya as Aasmaan Singh and Sahher Bambba as Karishma, hold their own despite the uneven pacing and dips in momentum. But the spice here is in the adornment, not the plot as such.

Tiresome watch

PRANATI A S

★★☆☆☆

Kamal Sridevi

Kannada (Theatres)

Director: Sunil Kumar VA

Cast: Sangeetha Bhat, Sachin Cheluvarayaswamy, Ramesh Indira, Kishore

The film's title 'Kamal Sridevi' may sound melancholic and romantic because of the nostalgia associated with it, but the film is nowhere near that.

'Kamal Sridevi' begins with the murder of a sex worker named Devika (Sangeetha Bhat). Her body is found in an old, shady lodge in Bengaluru's Majestic area. The film follows the murder investigation as Devika's many clients and a pimp recall the events that led to her death. What could have been a taut suspense thriller, in the 'Rashomon' style, ends up being a textbook case of how not to make a film.

Sachin and Sangeetha Bhat in 'Kamal Sridevi'.

It is filled with double entendres, crass jokes, and poorly composed scenes. Weak direction brings out unconvincing performances from the actors. It is also apparent that the filmmakers have not done enough research into the lives of sex workers, including how someone might unwillingly enter this line of work. The characters come across as caricatures — whether it is Sangeetha's Devika, Sachin Cheluvarayaswamy's Kamal, Ramesh Indira's pimp, or Kishore's cop. Kishore once again plays a cop, and the clichés surrounding his role reveal how poorly have the film's characters been written.

The film attempts to appear aesthetic, but the visuals do little to enhance the narrative. The props in the lodge, for example, remain mere decoration, detached from the pain, sorrow, and the fleeting pleasures of the women who have been in the room. Moreover, moments meant to shock or horrify feel hollow and devoid of emotion. Most importantly, the film's pinch points don't arrive on time, making it a tiresome watch.

A recipe for disaster

TAHER AHMED

Jude Law

★★☆☆☆

Black Rabbit

English (Netflix)

Creators: Zach Baylin, Kate Susman

Cast:Jude Law, Jason Bateman, Cleopatra Coleman, Abbey Lee, John Ales

'Black Rabbit' feels like that dish in which the ingredients ought to churn out something delicious, but as the recipe unravels all we are left with is a bitter taste of what could have been.

A popular restaurateur, Jake Friedkin (Jude Law) allows his troublesome brother Vince (Jason Bateman) back into his life and his restaurant, the Black Rabbit, to help him — only to find himself embroiled in the mess created by Vince.

Perhaps the makers intended to show the strong bond between the brothers, but what we end up getting is a slow, stale series. Given the setting and cast, one could imagine them being used better, but the show has too many smaller plots and sub plots and characters which honestly take a toll on the viewer.

As Jake aims to expand his empire, he finds himself stuck paying off the loan his brother took, even as he struggles to hide his own misdemeanours. Throw in a power struggle with his partners, dead staff, and an old family friend-cum-gangster who is now behind the brothers to repay the debt and what you are left with are eight episodes that drain you.

The show is largely predictable and feels bland. A restaurant that has a VIP room and that caters to the who's who is bound to have some secrets, but all we see are poor attempts to dramatise the said secrets.

Ultimately, if one does survive the show, the question to ask is what exactly did the makers want to show? A troubled family, sibling love, a complicated business or something else, for the audience is probably going to leave with a bitter taste after it's over.

Touching tale of a deaf man's quest for love

JAGADISH ANGADI

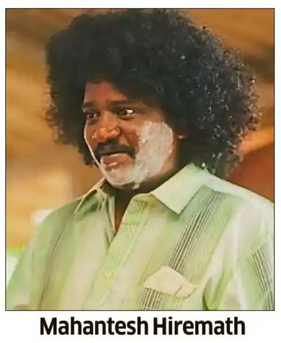
★★★½☆

Arasayyana Prema Prasanga

Kannada (Theatres)

Director: J V R Deepu

Cast: Mahantesh Hiremath, Rashimtha Gowda, P D Satish, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Anand Neenasam



Mahantesh Hiremath

Films like 'Thithi' (2015) and 'Su from So' (2025) garnered attention for their nuanced portrayals of rural life. Solid screenplays, humour, and compelling performances resonated with audiences. J V R Deepu's 'Arasayyana Prema Prasanga' (APP) now joins the ranks of these rural dramas.

Remember 'Ondu Motteya Kathe' (OMK) (2017), which explored a young man's desperate efforts to get married? While 'OMK' depicted the trials of a man with alopecia, 'APP' follows the attempts of a deaf man to find a soulmate.

Arasayya (Hiremath) is a humble and illiterate priest and a ritual musician from a village in Hassan district. An astrologer's prediction about his marital life adds an interesting layer to the narrative, hinting at the challenges and conflicts he might face. The plot thickens with Kumari's (Rashmitha) arrival at the village post office as an employee.

The astrologer's predictions in the past lead Arasayya to believe that he is destined to marry her. However, they come from different backgrounds and have contrasting personalities. Hilarious situations and misunderstandings follow as he begins to impress her. Kumari's responses to his moves are entertaining.

The director's use of the radio set as a symbol of the timelessness of love and relationships is poignant. The music by Pradeep and Praveen draws attention, with three impactful songs that complement the storyline. Hiremath as Arasayya and Rashmitha as Kumari bring depth to their characters. The chemistry between the leads is a highlight of the film, while the rest of the cast delivers solid performances.

The blend of humour and heartfelt moments makes it an engaging watch.

Smriti Mandhana

India eye historic maiden series win against Australia

NEW DELHI, PTI: Riding high on a record-breaking performance, India will eye a historic first ever women's ODI series win over the mighty Australia when the two sides clash in the decider of the three-match fixture here on Saturday.

The hosts have never managed to conquer the all-powerful world champions in a bilateral series, and a victory here would not only deliver that elusive triumph but also provide a timely surge of belief and momentum heading into the World Cup starting September 30.

However, it will be easier said than done.

After being outplayed in the opener, Harmanpreet Kaur and her team roared back with a stunning 102-run victory, which was Australia's heaviest defeat in terms of runs. It was also India's first win over them in 12 matches.

Australia fined

The Australian women's cricket team was on Friday fined 10 percent of its match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against India in the second One Day International in Mullanpur.

IN BRIEF

State A div b'ball in Oct

▸ The Karnataka State Basketball Association will conduct the State 'A' Division League Basketball Championship for Men for Prof NC Parappa Memorial Trophy from October spread across various venues in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

Teams in fray: Young Orions Sports Club, Bank of Baroda, DK District Basketball Association, DYES Sports Hostel, Beagles, JSC, Viveks SC, Southern Blues, KSP, MNK Rao Park BC.

Jr women to tour Aus

▸ The Indian junior women's hockey team is set to tour Australia for a five-match series and coach Tushar Khandker said the trip will help the side identify areas to improve ahead of the FIH World Cup later this year, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Pereira's new Wolves' deal

▸ Portuguese coach Vitor Pereira has signed a new three-year contract at Premier League team Wolverhampton, reports AP from UK.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Asia Cup (Super 4s): Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh **(8 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Ten 1**, **Sony Liv.**

ATHLETICS

World Championships: Day 8 **(1:53 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Liverpool vs Everton **(5 pm)**, Burnley vs Nottingham Forest, Brighton vs Tottenham, West Ham vs Crystal Palace, Wolves vs Leeds United **(all 7:30 pm)**, Man United vs Chelsea **(10 pm)**, Fulham vs Brentford **(12:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

BADMINTON

China Masters: Semifinals **(7:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

MOTORSPORT

Formula 1: Azerbaijan GP **(practice 3: 2 pm; qualifying: 5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **F1Tv Pro, FanCode.**

KABADDI

PKL: Patna Pirates vs Dabang Delhi **(8 pm)**, Haryana Steelers vs Tamil Thalaivas **(9 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET ASIA CUP

India survive gutsy Oman fight

Men in Blue handed timely wake-up call ahead of Super 4s clash against Pak

R KAUSHIK
ABU DHABI

Aamir Kaleem scored a fighting 46-ball 64 against India in Oman's final Asia Cup fixture at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday. AFP

If India had expected a stroll in the park, they were in for a nasty surprise. Sure, they rested Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy, they reworked their batting order with skipper Suryakumar Yadab pencilled in at No. 11, but even so, they should have been too strong for Oman, coming off big losses to Pakistan and UAE in their previous T20 Asia Cup matches.

Oman's batting had capitulated for 67 against Pakistan and 130 against the local heroes but up against the No. 1 side in the world, they raised their level several notches to produce a stellar display that turned what could have been one-way traffic into a gripping contest at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium. Aamir Kaleem and Hammad Mirza stroked brilliant fifties, but India packed just enough guns to register their third win on the bounce, by 21 runs after Oman racked up a most creditable 167 for four when they ran out of time. Despite not being at their commanding best, India posted 188 for eight, the highest total of the tournament, on the back of a typically blistering start from Abhishek Sharma, a scratchy half-century from Sanju Samson, pushed up to No. 3, and late cameo from Axar Patel and the creative Tilak Varma. Having promised a lot more at 100 for three after ten overs, the Indians couldn't tee off like they would have wanted, pegged back at the death by the excellent Shah Faisal, who received admirable support from fellow left-arm quick Jiten Ramanandi. Faisal had drawn first blood in the second over with a lovely inswinger that sneaked through Shubman Gill's gate and flattened the off-stump. It was the first indication that Oman weren't here just for the ride. They were feisty in the field and imposed pressure in patches with the ball, through India's superior firepower meant they would always have meaningful runs on the board. Faisal and Ramanandi brooked the most careful watching, but the ones who compelled attention were the three top-order batters. Skipper Jatinder Singh set the tone and the 43-year-old Kaleem put a slow start behind him with a terrific half-century, but it was Mirza, in his 14th T20I, who threatened an upset of gargantuan proportions.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Abhishek c Shukla b Ramanandi . 38 (15b, 5x4. 2x6)
Gill b Faisal 5 (8b, 1x4)
Samson c Bisht b Faisal 56 (45b, 3x4, 3x6)
Pandya (run out) 1 (1b)
Axar c Shukla b Kaleem 26 (13x4, 1x6)
Dube c Jatinder b Kameel 5 (8b)
Tilak c Islam b Ramanandi 29 (18b, 1x4, 2x6)
Rana (not out) 13 (8b, 1x6)
Arshdeep (run out) 1 (1b)
Kuldeep (not out) 1 (3b)
Extras (B-1, LB-2, W-10) 13
Total (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 188
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Gill, 1.3), 2-72 (Abhishek, 7.1), 3-73 (Pandya, 7.3), 4-118 (Axar, 11.2), 5-130 (Dube, 13.2), 6-171 (Samson, 17.4), 7-176 (Tilak, 18.3), 8-179 (Arshdeep, 18.6)
Bowling: Shakeel 3-0-33-0 (w-1), Faisal 4-1-23-2, Nadeem 1-0-19-0 (w-3), Ramanandi 4-0-33-2 (w-1), Shrivastava 2-0-23-0 (w-2), Islam 3-0-23-0 (w-3), Kaleem 3-0-31-2

OMAN

Jatinder b Kuldeep 32 (33b, 5x4)
Kaleem c Pandya b Rana 64 (46b, u7x4, 2x6)
Mirza c (sub) Rinku b Pandya 51 (33b, 5x4, 2x6)
Islam (not out) 0 (2b)
Shukla c (sub) Rinku b Arshdeep 1 (2b)
Ramanandi (not out) 12 (4b, 3x4)
Extras (B-1, W-5, NB-1) 7
Total (for 4 wkts, 20 overs) 167
Fall of wickets: 1-56 (Jatinder, 8.3), 2-149 (Kaleem), 3-154 (Mirza), 4-155 (Shukla)
Bowling: Pandya 4-0-26-1 (w-2), Arshdeep 4-0-37-1 (w-1), Rana 3-0-25-1 (w-1), Kuldeep 3-0-23-1 (nb-1), Axar 1-0-4-0, Dube 3-0-31-0 (w-1), Tilak 1-0-8-0, Abhishek 1-0-12-0
Result: India won by 21 runs.
PoM: Sanju Samson

Sri Lanka hope to tame Bangladesh

DUBAI, PTI

A determined Sri Lanka will take inspiration from their unbeaten group campaign and start favourites against an inconsistent Bangladesh in the first Super Four match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday.

Ably led by Charith Asalanka, the Lankans finished on top of Group B with three wins from as many matches, ahead of Bangladesh and T20 World Cup semifinalists Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by six wickets before defeating Hong Kong and Afghanistan by four and six wickets respectively.

But the Lankans are very capable of collapsing as well. The Islanders almost lost against Hong Kong on Monday after opener Pathum Nissanka's fifty.

A brittle middle-order is the major concern for Sri Lanka as they were on the verge of a familiar nosedive against Hong Kong, just three weeks after they were bowled out for 80 by Zimbabwe in Harare.

Nissanka has been the standout performer for Sri Lanka with the bat, leading the run-scorers' list with 124 runs from three games, including two fifties.

After two sedate knocks, wicketkeeper-batter Kusal Mendis finally came to the party with an attacking 74 off 52 balls against Afghanistan, much to the delight of the Lankans.

Left-hander Kamil Mishara too has been in good touch but Sri Lanka would look for contributions from the likes of skipper Asalanka, senior batters Kusal Perera and Dasun Shanaka in the middle-order.

In all the three group matches, Sri Lanka thrived while chasing and one would expect the Islanders to continue the same trend if they win the toss on Saturday.

Wellalage returns home

Sri Lanka's Dunith Wellalage has returned home from the on-going Asia Cup after his father, Suranga, passed away on Thursday night, the same day he was hit for five sixes from Mohammad Nabi in the final over, while playing a Group B league match against Afghanistan.

Wellalage learned of his father's demise only after the match, and he left for Colombo on the earliest available flight.

It is unclear whether the 22-year-old will return for the tournament where Sri Lanka are playing Bangladesh in a Super 4 match.

PCB claims protocols allow media managers to use cameras

ABU DHABI, PTI: The Pakistan Cricket Board on Friday defended its media manager filming a meeting between match referee Andy Pycroft and team officials ahead of their Asia Cup game against UAE, maintaining that the action was within ICC protocols. ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta had written to the PCB citing "multiple violations" of the Players and Match Officials Area code, including the recording of the interaction that involved Mike Hesson, Salman Ali Agha and manager Naveed Akram Cheema.

The ICC communication had also questioned a PCB press release which stated that Pycroft had apologised, clarifying that the referee had only expressed regret.

FOOTBALL

Rashford rumble in Barcelona romp

PARIS, AFP

Marcus Rashford scored twice as Barcelona kicked off their Champions League bid with a 2-1 victory away to Newcastle United on Thursday, while Erling Haaland notched his 50th goal in the competition in Manchester City's win over Napoli.

The third consecutive evening of action in the first round of games in this season's league phase also saw Eintracht Frankfurt, Sporting Lisbon and Club Brugge record big wins while FC Copenhagen held Bayer Leverkusen.

Rashford was still looking for his first Barcelona goals following his July loan move from Manchester United, and he got off the mark by heading in Jules Kounde's cross just before the hour at St James' Park.

Haaland's 50th goal

Pep Guardiola's City, the 2023 Champions League winners, got off to an ideal start too as they saw off Serie A champions Napoli, claiming a 2-0 victory at the Etihad Stadium.

The game was conditioned by the sending-off midway through the first half of Napoli captain Giovanni Di Lorenzo, dismissed for wiping out Haaland as the Norwegian headed towards goal.

That led to Napoli coach Antonio Conte taking off Kevin De Bruyne just 26 minutes into the Belgian playmaker's return to the stadium where he starred for a decade before departing at the end of last season.

Haaland then gave City the lead as he nodded in from a delightful Phil Foden assist early in the second half. That took him to 50 career Champions League goals from just 49 appearances.

Jeremy Doku then made it 2-0, leaving Napoli without a win in 13 visits to face English opposition in European competition.

Frankfurt hit five

Frankfurt were the night's biggest winners as they beat Galatasaray 5-1, despite the Turkish visitors taking an early lead through Yunus Akgun.

A Davinson Sanchez own goal brought Frankfurt level on 37 minutes, before Can Uzun and Jonathan Burkardt both netted in first-half.

Burkardt struck again after the break, and Ansgar Knauff wrapped up a fine victory for the German club, who are top of the fledgling league standings.

Fellow Bundesliga side Leverkusen had to come from behind twice to snatch a point in a 2-2 draw away.

Results: Club Brugge: 4 (Tresoldi 32nd, Onyedika 39th, Vanaken 42nd, Diakhon 75th) bt Monaco: 1 (Fati 90th+1); FC Copenhagen: 2 (Larsson 9th, Silva 86th) drew with Bayer Leverkusen: 2 (Grimaldo 82nd, Hatzidiakos 90th+1 OG); Eintracht Frankfurt: 5 (Sanchez 37th OG, Uzun 45th+2, Singo 45th+4 OG, Burkardt 66th, Knauff 75th) bt Galatasaray: 1 (Akgun 8th); Manchester City: 2 (Haaland 56th, Doku 65th) bt Napoli: 0; Newcastle: 1 (Gordon 90th) lt to Barcelona: 2 (Rashford 58th, 67th); Sporting Lisbon: 4 (Trincao 44th, 64th, Santos 66th, Quenda 68th) bt Kairat Almaty: 1 (Edmilson 86th).

Erling Haaland (right) scores Manchester City's first goal during their win over Napoli at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester on Friday. REUTERS

Devdutt Padikkal

Padikkal, Jurel stand out in high-scoring draw

LUCKNOW, PTI: Devdutt Padikkal struck a fine century, his seventh first-class ton, as India A gave a strong reply to Australia A's massive first-innings total in the drawn 'unofficial' Test here on Friday.

Padikkal, who was unbeaten on 86, continued from where he had left off on Thursday by hitting a 150 off 281 balls as the hosts declared their innings at 531 for 7, just one run shy of Australia A's 532 for 6 declared in the four-day game.

Australia A, batting in the second essay, made 56 without loss in 16 overs as the match petered to a tame draw.

First-innings centurion Sam Konstas and Campbell Kellaway remained unbeaten on 27 and 24 respectively.

Padikkal, who would be eyeing an India call-up especially in red-ball games against West Indies and South Africa with good performance in the ongoing two-match 'unofficial' Test series, did himself a huge favour by scoring a century that was studded with 14 boundaries and a six.

The other overnight batter Dhruv Jurel, who resumed the final day 113, played authoritatively, adding 27 more runs before being dismissed by young right-arm pacer Fergus O'Neill for 140 off 197 balls. His innings was lace with 13 fours and five sixes.

Brief scores: Australia A: 532/6 decl & 50 for no loss in 16 overs drew with India A (O/n: 403/4): 531/7 decl in 141.1 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 44, N Jagadeesan 64, B Sai Sudharsan 73, Devdutt Padikkal 150, Dhruv Jurel 140; Corey Rocchiccioli 3-159).

Satwik-Chirag storm into semis

Sindhu falls to nemesis An Se for the eighth time

SHENZHEN, PTI

India's top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty continued their consistent run to advance to the semifinals of the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament but PV Sindhu bowed out after falling yet again to Olympic champion An Se Young here on Friday.

Satwik and Chirag, the former world No. 1 Indian duo, who recently clinched their second World Championships bronze in Paris and finished runners-up at the Hong Kong Open last week, produced a clinical performance to outclass Chinese pair of Ren Xiang Yu and Xie Haonan 21-14, 21-14 in the quarterfinals.

Currently ranked ninth in the world, Satwik and Chirag are likely to face their arch-rivals and second seeds Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia in the semifinals on Saturday.

Earlier, double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu's woeful run against world No. 1 An Se Young continued, as the Indian suffered her eighth straight defeat against the Korean, going down 14-21. 13-21 in the women's singles quarterfinals.

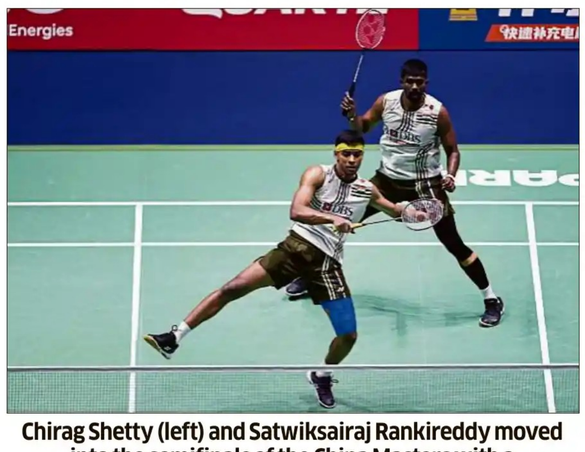
Satwik and Chirag got off to a flying start, unleashing a flurry of smashes to race to a 7-0 lead. A couple of errors allowed the Chinese to close in at 3-8, but the Indians maintained their rhythm to enter the interval with an 11-5 advantage.

While Ren and Xie attempted to change the pace with quick flat rallies and front-court play, the Indians remained sharp and aggressive. Chirag's flick serve made it 13-7, and another intense rally ended with the Chinese hitting wide to give India a 17-10 lead.

A sharp body attack and a precise toss saw the Indians surge ahead, and they pocketed the opening game after converting their second game point.

The second game was a closer affair in the early exchanges, with both pairs level at 7-7. However, the Indians pulled away to lead 11-9 at the mid-game interval courtesy of disciplined net play and sharp smashes.

After the break, Satwik and Chirag upped the ante, with Chirag firing two consecutive smashes to make it 19-13 before sealing the deal at the first match point.



Chirag Shetty (left) and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy moved into the semifinals of the China Masters with a straight-game win on Friday. AFP FILE PHOTO

ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Clockwise from left: United States' Noah Lyles celebrates after winning the men's 200m gold at the World Championships in Tokyo. Melissa Jefferson-Wooden completed a sprint double while Femke Bol clinched the women's 400-metre hurdles gold. REUTERS/AFP

Showman Lyles emulates Bolt

Jefferson-Wooden wins sprint double; Bol retains crown

TOKYO, AFP

Noah Lyles matched Usain Bolt's record of four consecutive world 200 metre titles as he scorched to victory in Tokyo on Friday.

Lyles, who won bronze in the 100m in the Japanese capital, clocked 19.52sec in what the charismatic American calls his "bread and butter" event.

Lyles roared as he came through the line, raising four fingers to acknowledge his four 200m titles and quickly seeking out his onlooking mother Keisha Caine Bishop in the stands.

Lyles's teammate Kenny Bednarek took silver in 19.58sec, with Jamaican Bryan Levell claiming bronze in 19.64sec.

Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo of Botswana had to settle for fourth, just a hundredth of a second off a podium place.

Anguilla-born Briton Zharnel Hughes was the other sub-20 sprinter, fifth in 19.78sec.

Bolt won his four titles from 2009-2015, going on to collect 11 world golds and eight Olympic titles in his storied career.

Lyles said the Tokyo world championships this week was very different from the Olympics on the same track four years ago at the Covid-delayed Games.

Lyles, who ran the fastest-ever semifinal performance in the history of any championships when he clocked 19.51sec on Thursday, was drawn in lane six, outside Tebogo and inside Levell and Bednarek.

Ever the showman, Lyles was afforded a rapturous welcome as images were beamed up on the big screens by way of introduction at a packed-out National Stadium.

Lyles raised his arms high into the sky, holding the pose before releasing a bellowing roar as he flexed downwards.

Double trouble

Melissa Jefferson-Wooden became the first woman since Jamaican legend Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce in 2013 to achieve the world sprint double after easing to victory in the 200 metres competition.

The 24-year-old American timed 21.68sec in a clear victory with Briton Amy Hunt an impressive second in 22.14sec and two-time defending champion Shericka Jackson of Jamaica third in a time of 22.18sec.

Jefferson-Wooden's victory was the first by an American since Alysson Felix won the third of her titles.

The race was missing Olympic champion Gabby Thomas, who pulled out injured before the championships, and the silver medallist from Paris last year Julien Alfred, who withdrew before the heats with a hamstring issue.

Jefferson-Wooden, coached by the controversial former sprinter Dennis Mitchell, who served a ban for doping during his competitive career, handled the pressure of being favourite brilliantly.

Not even the disqualification of veteran Bahamaian Anthonique Strachan for a false start distracted her. Jefferson-Wooden came off the bend into the finishing straight well ahead and nobody looked like catching her.

Bol too hot

Femke Bol retained her world 400 metre hurdles title in an event that two-time Olympic champion and world record holder Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone opted to skip.

Dutchwoman Bol blazed home in a time of 51.54sec in Tokyo, ahead of American Jasmine Jones and Slovakia's Emma Zapletalova.

It marked the end of another successful season for Bol, who completed an incredible sixth Diamond League campaign unbeaten.

Results: Men: 200m: Noah Lyles (USA) 19.52, 1; Kenneth Bednarek (USA) 19.58, 2; Bryan Levell (Jam) 19.64, 3. **400m hurdles:** Rai Benjamin (USA) 46.52, 1; Alison Dos Santos (Bra) 46.84, 2; Abderrahman Samba (Qat) 47.06, 3. **Triple Jump:** Pedro Pichardo (Por) 17.91, 1; Andrea Dallavalle (Ita) 17.64, 2; Lazaro Martinez (Cub) 17.49, 3.
Women: 200m: Melissa Jefferson-Wooden (USA) 21.68, 1; Amy Hunt (GBR) 22.14, 2; Shericka Jackson (Jam) 22.18, 3. **400m hurdles:** Femke Bol (Ned) 51.54, 1; Jasmine Jones (USA) 52.08, 2; Emma Zapletalova (Svk) 53.00, 3. **200m Heptathlon:** Abigail Pawlett (GBR) 1054 pts, 1; Anna Hall (USA) 2029 pts, 2; Katarina Johnson-Thompson (GBR) 1028 pts, 3.

Not how I hoped to end the season: Neeraj

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian javelin throw ace Neeraj Chopra on Friday said that the disappointing eighth-place finish at the World Championships was not how he had hoped to end his season but vowed to come back stronger after the break.

Troubled by back pain, Chopra, the defending gold-medallist, could manage a best of just 84.03 to be eliminated after the fifth round of finals in Tokyo on Thursday. He later revealed that the back issue had been hampering him since the beginning of this month but he did not want to cite this as the reason for the below-par show.

On Friday, he complimented debutant Sachin Yadav, who outperformed him with a spirited 86.27m throw that left him fourth in the standings.

"It's not how I had hoped to end the season, at the World Championships in Tokyo. I wanted to step out there and give my best for India despite all the challenges but it wasn't my night," he posted on X.

"I'm really happy for Sachin, who threw a personal best and almost brought home a medal. Congratulations to @keshorn_walcott, @peters_oly and @Curt_Thompson on their well-deserved podium places," he said.

The 27-year-old Haryana-lad promised to come back stronger.

"Grateful for all your support, this only makes me determined to come back stronger," he said.

Neeraj Chopra. REUTERS

Mayne Magic wins feature

MYSURU RESULTS

Kishan Thomas-trained Mayne Magic, ridden by Antony Raj, won the Maharaja's Cup, the feature event on Friday.
1. Kumaradhara Plate - 1400M: Adornment (M Sonawala) Antony Raj 1; Star Symphony (Afsar) 2; Southern Aristocrat (Darshan) 3; Bundelkhand Queen (K Singh) 4; Wb: 3/4, 4-1/4, 3/4L. T: 1:24.66 TB: Darius Byramji. Fav: Adornment.
2. Sidapur Plate (Div II) -1200M: Vayu (Girish) J Chinoy 1; Sea Of Adventure (Anil Baandal) 2; Versace (Dhanu Deora) 3; Mega Success (Jagadeesh) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 2-3/4, 5-1/4L. T: 1:11.47. TB: Joseph Awale. Fav: Sea Of Adventure.
3. Civil Services Trophy 1200M: Flaming Sword (A Sundaram) Trevor Patel 1; Serai (A Mhatre) 2; Southern Force (A Raj) 3; Prince Corporate(J Paswan) 4; Not Run: Priceless Prince. Wb: 2-1/2, 3/4, 3/4L. T: 1:10.65. TB: Dominic. Fav: Flaming Sword.
4. Maharaja's Cup - 1600M: Mayne Magic (E Aloysious) Antony Raj 1; Global Influence (Vikrant) 2; African Gold (Trevor Patel) 3; Promiseofthefuture (Neeraj Rawal) 4; Wb: 3/4, 3/L, Shd. T: 1:33.62. TB: Kishan Thomas. Fav: Mayne Magic.
5. Sidapur Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Mark One (J Trivedi) Pavan 1; Smile Of Beauty (Mhatre) 2; Amazing Attraction (Aleemuddin) 3; Anushtubha (Ajeeth Kumar) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 1-1/2, 1L,. T: 1:11.48. TB: M.Bobby. Fav: Smile Of Beauty.
6. Kasargod Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Coorg General (KNL) A Raj 1; Sorrento Secret (A Pal) 2; Tigerking (Rahul) 3; Clyde Star (Alex Rozario) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, 1/2, 4L. T: 1:37.81. TB: Aditya. Fav: Coorg General.
Bengaluru dividends: I race: Rs 14w; 11, 19, 30p; Fc: Rs 55; Q: Rs 52; Shp: Rs 49; Thp: Rs 67; Tri: Rs 685 & 440; Ex: Rs 3,671 & 1,694. **II race:** Rs 30w; Rs 11, 11, 14p; Fc: Rs 116; Q: Rs 42; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 119 & 88; Ex: Rs 480 & 243. **III race:** Rs 12w; 10, 24, 12p; Fc: Rs 115; Q: Rs 106; Shp: Rs 99; Thp: Rs 25; Tri: Rs 368 & 121; Ex: Rs 4,618 & 4,618. **IV race:** Rs 25w; 14, 116, 14p; Fc: Rs 2,343; Q: Rs 941; Shp: Rs 680; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 3,983 & 550. Ex: Rs 64,350 & 13,789. **V race:** Rs 34w; 14, 14, 40p; Fc: Rs 55; Q: Rs 30; Shp: Rs 32; Thp: Rs 96; Tri: Rs 940 & 844; Ex: Rs 4,481 & 1,248. **VI race:** Rs 15w; 10, 14, 14p; Fc: Rs 49; Q: Rs 37; Shp: Rs 43; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 107 & 30; Ex: Rs 256 & 141.
Jackpot: Rs 797 (380). **Runner-up:** Rs 158 (823). **I treble:** Rs 85 (47). **II treble:** Rs 283 (50).

Bharat for main event

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Bharat, from the stables Aashay Doctor, to be ridden by G Vivek, is fancied to win the Scruples Cup, the feature event of the races run over a sprint at the races on Saturday.
The first race starts at 1:45 pm.
1. Star Of Italy Handicap - 1600M: Global Fashion 1, Amalfitana 2, Aretha 3.
2. Best Of Blues Handicap - 1200M: Jean Lafette 1, Swift Lady 2, Horus The Great 3.
3. Nightjar Handicap (Div I) - 1100M: Lavish Girl 1, City Of Joy 2, Dance Along 3.
4. Nightjar Handicap (Div II) - 1100M: Oishika 1, Winsangel 2, Bundle Of Charm 3.
5. Quincy Handicap - 1400M: Rosalia 1, Victorious Omen 2, Sporting Trainer 3.
6. Scruples Cup - 1200M: Bharat 1, Roman Spirit 2, Prime Abbess 3.
7. Vanitas Handicap - 2000M: Good Deeds 1, Jahzara 2, Sea Eagle 3.
Day's best: Rosalia. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

Diamond And Pearl for feature

CHENNAI SELECTIONS

Sebastian-trained Diamond And Pearl, to be ridden by MS Deora, is fancied to win the Equinox Cup, the feature event of the Madras races to be run over a sprint at the races on Saturday.
The first race starts at 2:30 pm.
1. Track Lightning Handicap - 1200M: Aviothic 1, Clean Slate 2, Royal Exemplar 3.
2. Everynsky Handicap - 1200M: Crown Angel 1, Royal Tapestry 2, Our Asset 3.
3. Manitou Handicap - 1200M: Enchanting 1, Hero Worship 2, Summer Song 3.
4. Equinox Cup - 1200M: Diamond And Pearl 1, Red Falcon 2, Asio 3.
5. Squanderer Handicap - 1600M: Golden Warrior 1, Persian Rock 2, King's Battalion 3.
6. Own Opinion Handicap - 1200M: Empire Of Dreams 1, Off Shore Breeze 2, Gold Fame 3.
Day's best: Enchanting.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Treble: 4, 5 & 6.

Don't Miss Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

DECCAN HERALD

BIG PICTURE — From cowpox scars to Covid diplomacy, India's vaccine journey.
BOOKS — Seeking the self while in exile: Aatish Taseer's new book.
ART & PURSUITS — Turning cultural memory into functional art.
FOOD & DRINK — Food-forward dining is the new frontier.
TRAVEL — Namibia's vast deserts and ancient wonders create a timeless escape.
GENDER — Photographer Sunil Gupta's work challenges racial and queer identities.

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MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
PAPER DIVISION
MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560 052.
Phone : 080-22257649
No.PD/13/2025-26 Date:20.09.2025

SHORT-TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited for **"Supply of Diaries & Calendars for the year 2026."** Last date and time for submitting tender is **13.10.2025 at 15.00 hrs.** For more details visit: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- General Manager (Paper)

AWES CAMPUS BENGALURU
(A UNIT OF ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY, CAMPUS)
E-Mail : **registrar.blrcampus@awesindia.edu.in**
Web : **www.aifd.edu.in** and **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in**

VACANCY FOR ASSISTANT REGISTRARS

AWES Campus, Bengaluru is a unit of Army Welfare Education Society invites application for:-

POST – ASSISTANT REGISTRARS (VACANCIES - TWO)

For method to apply, qualification and salary, please refer to our website. **www.aifd.edu.in** and **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in**
Last date to apply : **03rd October, 2025**

Sd/- Registrar & HoA

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer KNNL, GLBC Dn. No. 2, Jamkhandi. Tq: Jamakhandi Dist: Bagalakote State: Karanataka
No: KNNL/GLBC-2/DB/Tender/25-26/754 Date:- 18.09.2025

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to this office tender notification No. 492 dated: 04.08.2025 & tender Corrigendum No. 694 dated: 04.09.2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal following modification are made with respect to Tender Schedule.

Sl No.	Work Indent Number
1	KNNL/2024-25/LI/ WORK_INDENT **2875**

1)Last Date for Submission of completed e-tendering documents is on 30.09.2025 up to 5.30 PM. 2) First Electronic Document (Technical BID) will be opened on 03.10.2025 at 11.00 AM . 3) Second Electronic Document (financial Bid) will be opened after approval to the technical bid from the competent authority.
For more details visit website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or at undersigned in all working days during office hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
KNNL, GLBC Dn No. 2 Jamkhandi.
DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-289/KSMCA/2025-26

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division,Almatti-586201.
Tq:B.Bagewadi Dt: Vijayapur.
No:KBJNL/ALBC/DB/TND/HW/2025-26/916
Date: 18.09.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-2)
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on percentage basis from the CEIG Class-I Electrical Contractor for the work of Headwork under KTPP act in KW-3 in **Two Cover system**. Details are as below;
Indent No: 2454
Amount put to tender: Rs. 83.89 Lakhs
Category - SC
Stages of Tender Process;
1. The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from **20.09.2025 to 30.09.2025** up to 5.00 PM.
2. Cover-I (Technical) Bid will be opened on 03.10.2025 at 11.00 AM.
3. Cover-II (Financial Bid) will be opened on 06.10.2025 at 11.00AM
At the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours. Further information about electronic tendering can be had from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/345/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು (ಜಾರಿ) ಶಿರಸಿ
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಜಂಟಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ (ಜಾರಿ), ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–580025
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ವಾ.ತೆ.ಸ.ಆ.(ಜಾರಿ)/ಶಿ/ಕೆ–28/ಹರಾಜು/2025–26 ಬಿ. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–193 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–09–2025

ಅಡಿಕೆ ಸರಕಿನ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು (ಜಾರಿ), ಶಿರಸಿ ಇವರು ಸರಕು ಸೇವಾ ತೆರಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2017 ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಟ್ಟುಗೋಲು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ 24,500 ಕಿಲೋ ಗ್ರಾಂ ಅಡಿಕೆ ಸರಕನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಜಂಟಿ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು (ಜಾರಿ), ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–580025 ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜಸ್ವದ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ **"ಹೇಗೆ ಇದೆಯೋ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ"** ಇರುವ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–10–2025** ರಂದು ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಖರೀದಿದಾರರು ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹರಾಜು ಜಾಲತಾಣವಾದ https://gst.kar.nic.in/TenderAction/2025.aspx.ರ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **acctenfsirsi@gmail.com**
ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9448433878**
ಸಹಿ/–
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ತೆರಿಗೆಗಳ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
(ಜಾರಿ) ಶಿರಸಿ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/687/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2025–26

Karnataka Government
(Urban Department)
District Urban Development Cell
Office of the Deputy Commissioner,
Mandya District, Mandya
E-Mail:ka.mandya.dudc@gmail.com
Ph No.08232-231111
No:MUN(7)32/2016-17 Date:17-09-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

The Project Director, DUDC Mandya invites tender under CMSMTDP Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-3 Scheme Works, intrested eligible bidders can submit tenders by logging into www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sl. No : 01. Work Name : Development and Construction of Roads and Drain Work in Malavalli TMC limits Mandya District under Nagarothana(municipality)-03 projects-Package-2 DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT38880 CALL-2. Tender Amount (Rs.in lakhs) (Excluding GST) : 50.64. EMD Amount : 1.015. class of contractors : class III and above. Pre Bid Meeting is scheduled on Date:24.09.2025 12.00pm, Last Date for submission of Tenders : 04.10.2025 Up to 5.30 pm, Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 06.10.2025.
For tender Details contact Technical Section of District Urban Development Cell, Office of Deputy Commissioner , Mandya District, Mandya in working hours on working day and also by loging into e-procurement website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Note: Any changes in the calendar of events and Tender conditions will be notified through kppp portal only.

Sd/-Project Director, DUDC, Mandya
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/448/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com

No. BMCRC/SUP/TEND/Syrup/03/2025-26/305
DATE:18.09.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenderis invited from theeligible Bidders for Supply of Syrups, Chemotherapy Drugs and Blood Bank Itemsto Medical College Hospital, BMCRC, Ballarion Rate Contract for a period of One yearunder Two bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inof Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested Bidders are informed to submit the proposal in priscribed format in above said e-portal on are before 04.10.2025 @5.00PM. The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.194.42 Lakhs Further details may be obtained in the above said website and www.bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/465/KSMCA/2025-26

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055.
Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886, Website: www.mysoresandal.org e-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**
An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company
Date: 19.09.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited by **KS&DL** in two cover system through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**) with respect to supply of following Goods/Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	Last Date of Submission
1	KSDL/2025-26/SE0174	Jobs undertaken to produce a given result by engaging manpower resources by the agency entered into a contract as per the work order entered by the KS&DL.	Services	18-09-2025	24-10-2025
2	KSDL/2025-26/SE0176	Engaging of job work contract for machine made raw agarbathi blending/dilution and dipping of cleaned raw agarbathies in perfume at Sandalwood Oil Division, Mysuru for the period of one year.	Services	18-09-2025	08-10-2025

For any further queries/clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Sd/- Asst. General Manager (Materials)

Anshul scores thrilling win, Guntas grabs three titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: With Pritish Singh Karayat catching the overnight leader Anshul Mishra by the end of the fourth day of the IGU Bio-Gen Rotary Southern India Amateur Golf Championship, the onus of deciding a winner came down to a play-off contest between the two men.

As it turned out, West Bengal's Anshul made a birdie while Delhi's Pritish parred the first play-off hole to watch the former claim the title at the Karnataka Golf Association here on Friday.

Teeing off on the final day with a slender one-shot lead, 16-year-old Anshul had two bogeys and three birdies in his one-under 71 following cards of 69-70-66 for a four-day total of 12-under 276.

Among the women golfers, Chandigarh's Guntas Kaur Sandhu enjoyed her moment under the sun after clinching three titles - ladies, A & B combined, A & B combined and B category.

The 14-year-old Guntas carded a second successive four-under 68 (71, 68, 68) for the three-day total of nine-under 207.

Leading scores: Men (after 72 holes): 276: Anshul Mishra (69, 70, 66, 71), Pritish Singh Karayat (70, 68, 68, 70); **277:** Ishaan Chawhan (67, 69, 72, 69); 281: Deepak Yadav (73, 69, 66, 73). **Ladies, A & B combined (after 54 holes): 207:** Guntas Kaur Sandhu (71, 68, 68); **210:** Kaya Daluwatte (71, 69, 70). **A & B combined: 207:** Guntas Kaur Sandhu (71, 68, 68); **210:** Kaya Daluwatte (71, 69, 70). **A category: 210:** Kaya Daluwatte (71, 69, 70); **213:** Anuradha Chaudhuri (70, 72, 71). **B category: 207:** Guntas Kaur Sandhu (71, 68, 68); **228:** Shambhavi Chaturvedi (78, 79, 71). **C category: 217:** Aida Thimmaiah (72, 70, 75); **227:** Ojaswini Saraswat (76, 77, 74).

Anshul Mishra (left) and Guntas Kaur Sandhu.

FOOTBALL

ISL start gets SC fillip

AIFF chief Chaubey is confident of holding flagship event after top court verdit

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

From left: Joakim Alexandersson (U-20 & U-17 women's team head coach), Naushad Moosa (U-23 men's head coach), NA Haris (AIFF vice president), Kalyan Chaubey (AIFF president), Khalid Jamil (men's head coach), Crispin Chettri (women's head coach), M Satyanarayan (AIFF deputy secretary) at the AIFF news conference in Bengaluru. SPORTS PADDOCK

Following Supreme Court's approval of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) draft constitution with certain modifications on Friday, an elated Kalyan Chaubey said the governing body is committed to hold its flagship event -- the Indian Super League.

"We are trying to be dedicated, determined and focused. The league needs to be completed before May 31. So we have to make sure that the start of the league is according to that, Chaubey said during a press conference by the AIFF.

"To play in Asian tournaments, ISL teams will need to feature in at least 24 matches and to make that possible, you have to come up with a new structure and get a commercial partner.

"For that, you will need to follow the process in a transparent way.

"With god's blessings, we hope to start and end the league at the right time."

The Supreme Court also recognised the election of the current office bearers led by Chaubey and said that the present executive committee could complete its tenure until the next polls in 2026.

WHAT CHANGES

- League to be owned & operated by AIFF
- Promotion & relegation added
- Provisions for removal of office bearers

So far, so good

The senior men's team, under Khalid Jamil, has made steady progress as they returned home with a bronze medal from Tajikistan.

The understrength side at the CAFA Nations Cup, lost just one game (to the 20th-ranked Iran) and though the sample size is just one tournament, it is a sign that something is working.

"The CAFA Nations Cup was a great platform where our boys showed character and now our full focus is on the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers against Singapore," said Jamil.

Sandesh Jhingan had undergone surgery for a cheekbone fracture which he sustained while playing in Tajikistan and had rendered him doubtful for India's two Asian Cup qualifying games against Singapore.

However, all of it was put to bed by Jamil.

"Yes, he (Jhingan) will be available for those games."

Jamil was also not too worried about the opponents (Singapore) and the availability of players (delay in joining) for the preparatory camp. The 48-year-old placed all his faith on the camp starting Saturday, expecting it to keep his team match ready.

"Depending on the player and their availability, we will see how to prepare them. We are starting (the camp) tomorrow (Saturday). But we have to see because less players are attending tomorrow. However, we should be ready for all situations."

Nagairangbam hat-trick in KFC win

BENGALURU, DHNS

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Nagairangbam Rakesh Singh scored a hat-trick as Kickstart FC posted to a 4-2 win over MEG & Centre FC in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Friday.

Ngairangbam opened the scoring in the 10th minute and doubled the tally 20 minutes later. Monish G, then found the back of the net in the 58th minute to give Kickstart a 3-0 lead, before Ngairangbam completed his hat-trick two minutes after to take the game out of their opponents' stretch.

In the day's other game, goals from MD Arbash, Serto Wornmeilen Kom, Chaphamayum Rohen Singh and Rakeshit P Anil helped Bengaluru FC register a 4-1 win over FC Agniputhra.

Results: Kickstart FC: 4 (Nagairangbam Rakesh Singh 10th, 30th, 60th, Monish G 58th) bt MEG & Centre FC: 2 (Siddhant Pranay 35th pen, Hengoulal Kipgen 43rd); Bengaluru FC: MD Arbash 35th, Serto Wornmeilen Kom 44th, Chaphamayum Rohen Singh 90th+3, Rakeshit P Anil 90th+6) bt FC Agniputhra: 1 (Goutam Rajesh 87th); United Stars FC: 2 (Vishal R 7th, Emmanual J Adolf 66th) bt Bangalore Dream United FC: 0.

Aby S (right) of United Stars Football Club and Vivek CS of Bangalore Dream United battle for possession during a KSFA Super Division match at BFS on Friday.
DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

(From left) Shikha Gautam, Diya Bheemaiah and Ashwini K Bhat pose with their spoils.

Ashwini, Shikha wear doubles crown

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam clinched the women's doubles title in the Yonex-Sunrise Dr Akhilesh Das Gupta memorial All India Senior-ranking tournament in Lucknow on Friday.

Ashwini and Shikha took the first game 21-14 and it was a similar scoreline in the second that gave them the title in straight games.

In the mixed doubles category, Karnataka's Diya Bheemaiah and Bjorn Jaison scripted a come-from-behind 17-21, 22-20, 21-14 win over Dhieepan V and Pranavi V to finish atop the podium.

Results: Finals: Women's Doubles: Ashwini Bhat K/Shikha Gautham bt Aditi Bhat/Sharavni Walekar 22-14, 21-14
Mixed Doubles: Bjorn Jaison/Diya Bheemaiah bt Dhieepan V/Pranavi V 17-21, 22-20, 21-14

Tvesa top Indian in tied-17 at La Sella Open

ALICANTE (SPAIN), PTI: Eager to keep her full playing rights on the Ladies European Tour, Indian golfer Tvesa Malik got off to a good start with a one-under 71 to be placed Tied-17th at the 2025 La Sella Open here.

Tvesa, who has often come close to getting her maiden win on the LET, was the best among the seven Indian women playing at the Euro one million event at La Sella Golf Resort.

Hitaashee Bakshi (72) was T-28 while India's top two stars on the Tour, Diksha Dagar and Pranavi Urs carded 73 each to be T-44. Ridhima Dilawari (75) was T-77, Avani Prashanth (78) and Vani Kapoor (78) were T-113 and are in danger of missing the cut.

Suraj bows out in quarters with hope for future

ZAGREB (CROATIA), PTI: Young Suraj Vashishth gave a good account of himself on his senior World Championship debut, making the 60kg quarterfinals before bowing out here on Friday.

While other Greco Roman wrestlers have struggled, the U20 World Championships bronze winner and U20 Asian champion won two bouts, giving something to cheer about to the coaching staff.

Suraj won 3-1 against Angel Tellez and followed that up with a 3-1 win over Moldova's Victor Ciobanu.

However, he lost his quarterfinal 1-4 against Serbia's Georgij Tibilov.

IOC to again allow Russians

MILAN, AFP: The International Olympic Committee on Friday announced that athletes from Russia will once more be allowed to compete at the 2026 Winter Olympics under a neutral banner if they meet strict conditions.

"The Executive Board will take the exact same approach that was done in Paris," said IOC president Kirsty Coventry.

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DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, September 20, 2025

Wknd.

ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

THREADS OF TRADITION
PAGE 03

SAY IT WITH A GIFT
PAGE 04

Show Buzz | Tara Sutaria

'There's nothing like being on stage...'

She's been making waves for her style quotient in her on-screen roles, her runway outings and her latest music video, Thodi Si Daru – by singers A P Dhillon and Shreya Ghoshal. Actor Tara Sutaria is the star of blockbusters including Student of the Year (SOTY 2), Heropanti 2, Ek Villain Returns, Tadap, Apurva (on OTT)... She is a trained ballerina, a talented singer and a brilliant artist as well. All while she flaunts her baking skills in whipping up amazing pies.

Shilpi Madan caught up with her for this chat.

You found yourself through music...
I don't know how and when, but I realise that I need to start putting my attention back to who I really am and what I really wanted to represent, and that is definitely music. There is a concert that I've been planning for the longest time. I used to do plenty of concerts and many people don't know this about me. Before I did Student of the Year 2, I was a singer - musical theatre was my life and it is my life even now. There is nothing like being on stage, so I plan to bring that back.

Something that few know about you...
I am an old soul – I get along fabulously with older people. I am emotionally welded to my sister, Pia, and I have trained for 15 years in singing. Now I am back to frequent riyaaz, as opposed to just strengthening my vocal cords and techniques in the shower!

Are you routing everything to emotion?
Music, films, theatre – everything is about emotion, nothing else. Can you evoke that emotion in a person? If you can, then it will be remembered. Look at Saiyaara - it's evoking. It's not succumbing to anything that our industry today says will work. For the last few years, people have been saying love stories are not working, rom-com is not working. Saiyaara is everything that a love story should be. It's true, it's genuine, it's from the heart, and it's evoking emotion.

What has been the turning point in your career?
Apurva felt like it changed my life because a lot of realisations happened to me during the filming of that movie and its release. I think it's the most successful film in my filmography. I realise after I finished that film - something just snapped inside me. I need to know that I've done this because it was my dream to do a movie like that. I'd rather do a few films and focus on a film like Apurva that gives me the ability to showcase my progress or something different in myself that I wanted to do for a long time. I also want to focus on my music again, like it just came to me.

A gift your parents have given you...
Being kind and gracious is an absolute must, that is how my parents have raised me. Beauty is as beauty does. I love and treasure the adulation that everyone showers me with. But I am aware that it could disappear tomorrow.

Strings 2025: Medicine meets melody at MVJ Medical College and Nursing College

Healing Touch

In the fast-paced world of medicine, where days are packed with lectures, labs and long hours of patient care, it's easy to forget the heartbeat that connects it all - joy, creativity and community. At MVJ Medical College and Research Hospital and MVJ College of Nursing, this spirit comes alive once a year during their much-anticipated cultural and sports festival, Strings.

Strings has always been about bringing people together, like the strings of a guitar or violin - different notes coming together to create harmony. This year's theme, 'Cadence: The Rhythm of Life', was a tribute to the balance between medicine, music and life itself.

"Our festival is called Strings because, just like the strings of a musical instrument, we are all connected," says Dr Dharani M, CEO, MVJ Medical College and Research Hospital. "It's a time for students and faculty to come together beyond the pressures of academics. It allows everyone to pause, express themselves and bond."

Months of planning and collaboration between students and faculty went into creating a festival that truly reflected the college's essence - a place where healing and harmony go hand-in-hand. Each batch embraced a unique musical identity - first-year students were 'The Treble Makers' to the faculty and PGs who became 'The Harmony Heads', and nursing students aptly named 'The Healing Chords'.

Strings isn't just about music or dance - it's a celebration of every kind of talent. The festival opened with energetic dance performances, followed by evenings filled with cultural events - soulful singing, fashion shows, murder mystery acts and dazzling group dances. The highlight this year was a series of show-stopping live concerts featuring star performers like Jonita Gandhi and Mannath Band, which brought the campus alive with electrifying energy.

The outdoor grounds were equally vibrant with cricket, football, basketball, throwball and track events. Unique contests such as box cricket and tug-of-war added laughter and friendly rivalry.

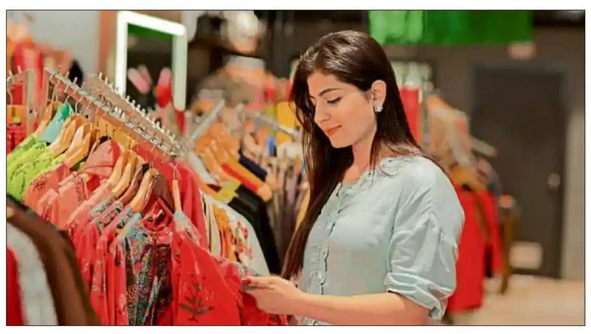
What truly sets Strings apart is the active involvement of faculty alongside students. Teachers didn't just cheer from the sidelines - they participated wholeheartedly in events and performances, showing a more personal side outside classrooms and clinics. "Even though medicine is a demanding field, everyone finds time to participate. Our doctors and nurses take turns managing patient care so others can join the fun," says Dr Dharani.

For students, Strings is more than a festival. "Being part of Strings makes us feel proud and connected," says one student. "Even though our studies are intense, events like these keep us motivated. MVJ feels like a second home."

Three rolling trophies, symbols of unity and achievement, are awarded at Strings. This year, the 'Best Department Trophy' went to the Department of Community Medicine, the 'Medical Trophy' to the intern batch and the 'Nursing Trophy' to the final-year nursing students.

"Strings is a celebration of who we are as an institution," says Dr B Ravichander, Principal. "It reflects our belief that education is not only about academics but about nurturing well-rounded individuals. These moments of music, sport and shared creativity build the qualities that define great healthcare professionals - teamwork, empathy and resilience."

Strings offers a vibrant glimpse of life at MVJ - where rigorous academics meet compassion and creativity. As Dr Dharani sums up, "Even as we celebrate, we never forget our responsibility to our patients. The way our students and faculty balance care with creativity is what makes MVJ truly unique."



It's shopping time again in the city!

Bengalureans are hopping onto the shopping bandwagon, says **Prerna Malhotra**

Festive Cheer

As the city lights up with festive lamps and joy, Bengalureans are diving headfirst into their favourite festive ritual - shopping! From shimmery sarees to artisanal decor, the vibe this season is all about making the most of the traditions with a modern touch.

"Dasara and Diwali are my excuses to go all out," laughs Apoorva S, a marketing professional, spotted on Commercial Street with bags in both hands. "This year, I'm obsessed with metallic lehengas and statement jewellery. My family expects me to show up at the Diwali party looking my stylish best, so... challenge accepted!"

For some, the joy lies in curating the perfect gifts. An IT manager, Rohit Sharma, has been exploring boutique stores in Bengaluru. "I'm done with the usual dry fruit baskets," he says. "This year, I'm thinking of gifting something like artisanal coffee hampers, handmade chocolates, organic candles or even luxury skincare kits. It feels more personal and fun - I love seeing people's faces light up when they unwrap something unexpected."

For some, festive shopping is less about excess and more about meaning. Shreya Nambiar, a slow-fashion enthusiast, is encouraging people to shop consciously. "Festivals are the perfect time to support local artisans," she explains. "This year, my picks include handwoven sarees from Odisha and eco-friendly decor made by rural craftspeople. They are pretty and meaningful. It's a way to celebrate while giving back."

Whether it's glitzy couture, mindful shopping or a little bit of both, one thing's certain – Dasara and Diwali 2025 are sparkling with personal style. As Apoorva puts it, "It's not just about what you buy, but how you light up the season for yourself and the people around you."

AKSHAYAKALPA ORGANIC REIMAGINES CELEBRATIONS

'Rent Cutlery' and 'Zero Waste, Zero Junk Birthdays' initiatives of Akshayakalpa Organic promote well-being and eco-friendly celebrations

Safe Party

Akshayakalpa Organic has introduced two pioneering initiatives that bring sustainability and wellness to the heart of celebrations, the 'Rent Cutlery' service and 'Zero Waste, Zero Junk Birthdays' programme. India hosts millions of celebrations each year, including over 10 million weddings, many of which generate mountains of plastic waste. A single wedding with 500 guests can create more than 5,000 disposable plates and cups.

To counter this, Akshayakalpa's 'Rent Cutlery' service enables customers to easily rent food-grade stainless steel plates, cups and spoons for any occasion, from birthdays to large-scale gatherings. Using stainless steel cutlery offers significant benefits for health, durability and convenience. Unlike certain plastics or reactive metals, stainless steel is safe, non-toxic, heat resistant, non-leaching and long-lasting. Plastics not only pollute, they also leach into food through heat, spices, salt, sugar or sour ingredients, harming both food and health. This approach also spares trees, reducing the need for disposable paper cutlery.

Complementing this, the 'Zero Waste, Zero Junk Birthdays' initiative transforms children's parties with wholesome alternatives like naturally-sweetened cakes, organic cheese platters and nutritious finger foods. Sustainable decor made from reusable materials and eco-friendly return gifts like potted plants or seed kits foster a lifelong connection with Nature.

"Celebrations should be moments of joy, and there's no greater joy than sharing food that nourishes and sustains," said Shashi Kumar, Co-founder and CEO, Akshayakalpa Organic. "By encouraging children to enjoy wholesome food early on, we're planting the seeds for lifelong well-being."

Early diagnosis, timely treatment beats blood cancers

Every year, September is observed as Hematologic Cancer Awareness Month, a vital reminder of the need to detect and treat these cancers before they advance. Blood cancers are among the fastest-growing cancers, and if neglected, they can rapidly become life-threatening. However, there's hope. Many of these cancers are highly curable when diagnosed early and treated with the right protocols.

"Haematological cancers respond well to chemotherapy, but timing is critical. The sooner treatment begins, the better the chances of a full recovery," says Dr Anoop P, Senior Consultant Haematologist and Paediatric Hemato-Oncologist, Aster Hospitals Bangalore.

Dr. Anoop P

Understanding the red flags

Blood cancers can affect both adults and children, yet their early symptoms are often dismissed or mistaken for other health issues.

Dr Anoop explains these conditions may show up as:

Low red blood cells: Fatigue and breathlessness

Low white blood cells: Frequent infections

Low platelets: Unexplained bleeding or bruising

Other warning signs include bone pain, unexplained weight loss or night sweats. The most common types of blood cancers seen in Bengaluru are leukaemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS).

Early diagnosis saves life

Unlike many solid organ cancers, blood cancer cells multiply much faster, causing a rapid decline in health. "If diagnosis is delayed until a patient is very unwell, treatment becomes far more challenging. Early detection almost always translates to better outcomes," notes Dr Anoop.

While sophisticated tools like PET-CT scans and chromosomal studies are sometimes needed, most blood cancers can be detected initially through simple tests such as a complete blood count, blood film examination and bone marrow biopsy.

Demystifying bone marrow transplant

A bone marrow transplant (BMT) can sound daunting to many families. Dr Anoop clarifies, "BMT involves replacing defective bone marrow with healthy marrow from a compatible donor. When done carefully between HLA-matched donors, it can completely cure certain cancers. A common myth is that donors will face long-term health issues - this is completely untrue. Their bone marrow recovers quickly after donation."

Advances in care

Breakthroughs in protocol-based treatment, targeted therapies, immunotherapy and supportive care have significantly improved survival rates. Children, in particular, respond very well to chemotherapy and often achieve higher cure rates since they can tolerate more intensive treatments and usually don't have complicating health conditions like diabetes or hypertension.

Holistic support at Aster Hospitals Bangalore

Treatment of hematologic cancers can be both emotionally and financially overwhelming. Aster Hospitals Bangalore - which includes Aster CMI Hospital, Aster Whitefield Hospital and Aster R V Hospital - offers comprehensive support. This includes assistance with fundraising through crowdfunding, partnerships with NGOs, and CSR programmes, alongside access to psychologists who provide emotional care to patients and families.

Message of hope

Fear and denial are often the biggest barriers to timely diagnosis.

"Don't ignore unexplained fatigue, weight loss or bleeding," urges Dr Anoop. "When in doubt, see a doctor for initial screening. Early intervention saves lives."

With awareness, timely action, and the right care, blood cancers can be defeated - and many patients can look forward to a future free of the disease.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. WELLNESS

Increase the intensity of your work-outs to offset the extra calories you are consuming this season

WORKING OUT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

GO FOR NUTRITION RICH MEALS

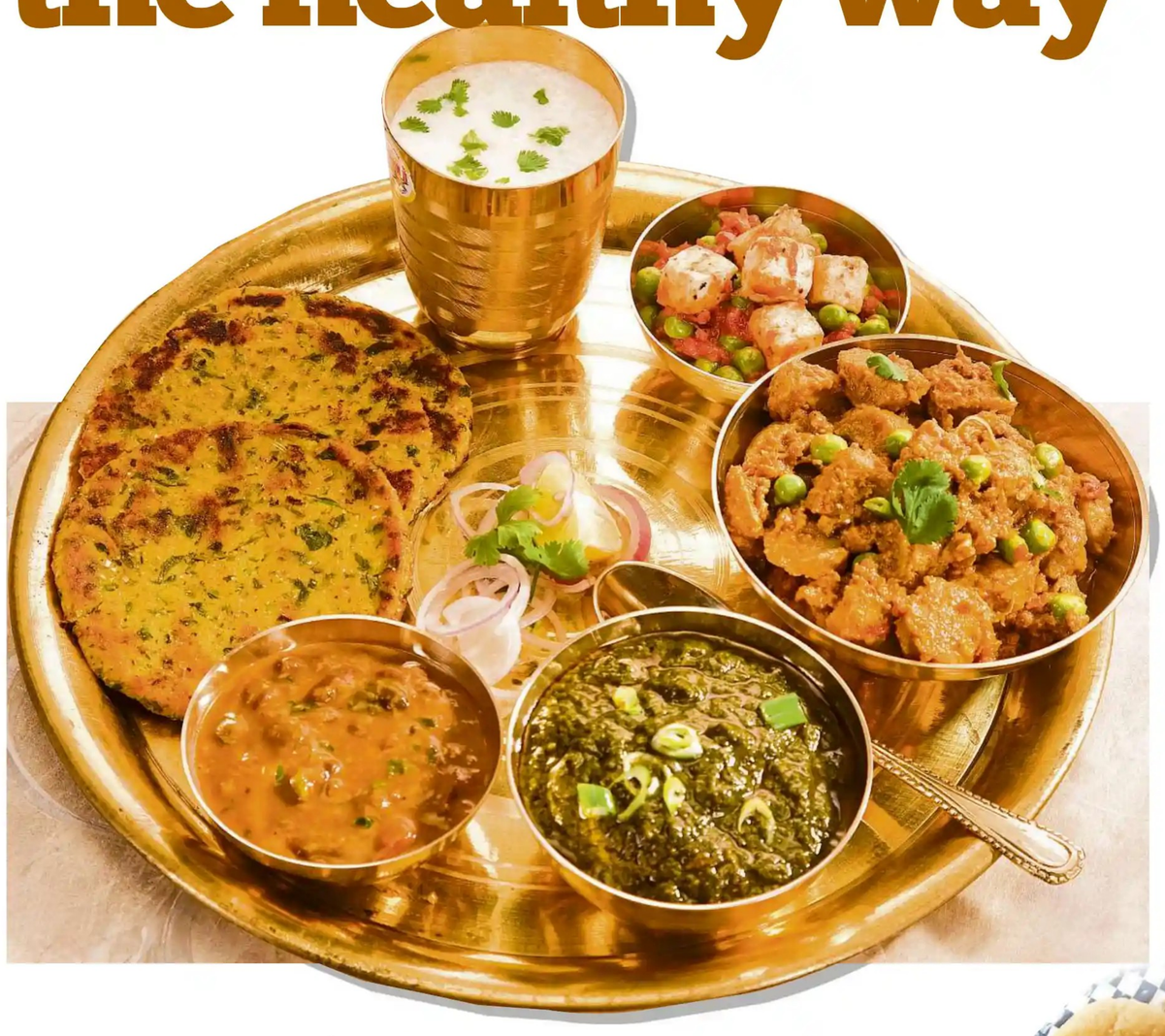
The festive season is a time to indulge in delicacies. However, if you are calorie-conscious you need to balance your festive treats with nutrient-dense foods. Make veggies and protein-rich dishes your staple food daily. Control portion sizes of festive delicacies. Stay well-hydrated and avoid sugary drinks.

MINDFUL EATING IS THE KEY

This is a time for parties. Ensure you increase portions of nutrition-rich and protein-dense foods and cut down on the portion sizes of festive indulgences and desserts. Another good habit this season is snacking on vegetable sticks, nuts and dry fruits in between meals rather than bite into that tasty treat that floats all around this season.

Jayanthi Madhukar has some recipes if you're looking for flavourful, easy to cook, and protein and gluten-free meals, to balance your festive season treats

Pamper your tastebuds the healthy way



Black beans salad

Protein is hard to come by in a vegetarian diet but trusty beans always serve. Here's a protein-filled flavourful salad.

What you need:

- One each - small red onion, red pepper and avocado (sliced)
- Juice of one lime
- One and a half cup of black beans (pre-soaked and cooked)
- One cup of pineapple or corn (diced)
- One green chilli (deseeded and chopped)
- Two tablespoons of coriander leaves (for garnishing)
- Salt to taste and olive oil for drizzling on top of the salad

Preparation:

In a large bowl, add all the ingredients one by one. If you wish, first mix the onions and lime juice to remove the sharp intense taste of raw onions. After all the ingredients have been added, toss the salad gently and drizzle it with a little olive oil.

Serve it immediately or chill the salad in the refrigerator before serving.

Quinoa Pulao

The convenience of a one-pot dish is underrated so here's one power-packed meal to go to.

What you need:

- Two cups of cooked quinoa
- Three cups of boiled vegetables (carrots, beans, peas, potatoes, corn)
- One small red onion (diced)
- Two small tomatoes (diced)
- Two tablespoons of mint leaves (finely chopped)
- One inch ginger (cut finely)
- One teaspoon of green chillis (cut finely)
- One teaspoon of ginger (finely grated)
- Seasoning - two green cardamoms, one bay leaf, two cloves, two-inch cinnamon stick, one teaspoon of cumin seeds
- One tablespoon of oil for frying
- Salt to taste

Preparation:

In a thick pan, heat oil and add the seasoning, taking care to fry the ingredients one by one. When the aromas of the spices are released, saute ginger, onions and tomatoes – in that order. Now, add the mint leaves and gently fry till its aroma is released. The cooked vegetables go in next. You could add cooked rajma as well for double the protein! Gently give it all a stir. If you wish, salt the vegetables now.

Once done, add the cooked quinoa and give it all a firm stir. Cover the pan with a lid and let the pulao rest on low heat for a minute before serving. You could garnish the pulao with caramelised onions and coriander leaves.

To cook quinoa:

Wash one cup of quinoa and add two cups of water for cooking. You could cook it in a rice cooker for best results.

Moringa Soup

Call it immunity boost or a deliciously different flavoured soup – moringa leaves are much desired.

What you need:

- Half a cup each of onion and tomato (chopped into medium-sized cubes)
- One cup of bottle gourd cubes
- Two handfuls of moringa leaves
- Two tablespoons of moong dal (optional)

For seasoning:

- Salt and pepper to taste
- Juice of one lime (optional)

Preparation:

First, saute onions and tomatoes in a little oil (or butter if you wish). When they turn light brown, fry the bottle gourd lightly until the aroma is released. Now, add sufficient water along with two handfuls of moringa leaves. Throw in the moong dal as well.

Pressure cook the ingredients – usually two whistles are enough. When done, pass the ingredients through a sieve. Collect the clear liquid. Grind the boiled ingredients in the sieve into a fine paste and add into the clear liquid. Stir the soup on medium heat, adding more water for consistency if needed.

Garnish the soup with the seasoning, taking care to add the lime juice after taking the soup off the heat.

Quick-fix Milk Peda

There's nothing like a dessert to finish up a meal. Here's a quick and easy recipe to pamper your sweet tooth.

What you need:

- Half a cup each of unsalted butter and sweetened condensed milk
- Two cups of milk powder
- One teaspoon of cardamom powder
- Handful of pistachios

Preparation:

Place the butter in a large ceramic bowl and melt it in the microwave (40 seconds). Add the rest of the ingredients into the bowl and mix it with a wood ladle. Microwave the contents for one minute and stir the ingredients well and microwave again for a minute. If the mixture is not cooked as yet, stir the ingredients again and microwave for another minute. Let it cool for five minutes before shaping the pedas by hand. Smear some melted ghee on your hand before shaping the pedas. Garnish with pistachio flakes.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

MY BALL IS BURIED IN THE SAND
THAT'S A TOUGH SHOT
NOT IF I PLAY IT LIKE THIS
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GREG+MORT WALKER
4/21

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

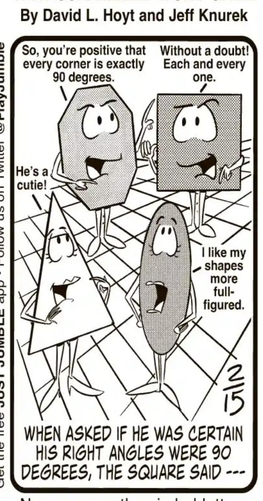
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RRHYU

DIUOA

NUSIEW

CAAEDF


So, you're positive that every corner is exactly 90 degrees.
Without a doubt! Each and every one.
He's a cutie!
I like my shapes more full-figured.
WHEN ASKED IF HE WAS CERTAIN HIS RIGHT ANGLES WERE 90 DEGREES, THE SQUARE SAID ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " " " "

Answers

HURRY AUDIO UNWISE FACADE

When asked if he was certain his right angles were 90 degrees, the square said — "FOUR" SURE

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HITORI-114

8	2	8	4	4	1	5	2
8	4	2	6	5	4	7	3
3	5	4	8	7	2	1	8
7	6	4	2	1	7	3	5
4	5	6	7	5	5	2	1
8	5	7	4	3	4	7	8
1	3	8	5	2	6	8	7
6	2	2	1	6	3	8	4

SOLUTION for HITORI-114

4	■	3	■	1	2	■	6
7	8	6	2	5	■	3	1
8	■	4	3	■	5	7	■
1	2	5	■	7	6	■	4
5	3	■	1	2	■	6	7
■	1	2	7	8	4	■	3
3	7	■	5	6	■	4	8
■	5	1	■	4	8	2	■

To solve the puzzle:

Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 115

CRYPTIC

ACROSS

1 Drift aloft (5)
6 Scot also found in the outskirts of Salisbury (5)
9 Something you can stand on when tidying, perhaps (7)
10 On the allotment, you can grow a line on both sides (5)
11 Every individual has the right to get somewhere (5)
12 He was French, yet to a degree Anglo Saxon (5)
13 Always in favour of a bit of severity (7)
15 Perpetually five short? (3)
17 She envelops one in doom! (4)
18 A businesslike programme (6)
19 Lord Haw-Haw's girl? (5)
20 Age of the school team? (6)
22 Tidal wave of the Ebro? (4)
24 Roland may come by water (from the Euphrates?) (3)
25 Cringed like a coward (7)
26 A bit of misplaced ardour in the wood (5)
27 Cancel crazy curbs (5)
28 Having to go back in a bus is just not true! (5)
29 Charge nothing for an order in a restaurant (7)
30 You can credit a fish with finishing up in one (5)
31 Man run out? (5)

DOWN

2 Jack's place (6)
3 Loved to be dead wrong about getting nothing right! (6)
4 It's less than platinum (3)
5 Wrath of a no-good ruler (5)
6 Odd cluster of garnets reset (7)
7 They're in agreement on an article (4)
8 Avoided a flier named Edward (6)
12 Figure to be badly done out of a piece of land (5)
13 Saturday night complaint? (5)
14 It'll fix a vertical piece that's broken (5)
15 Where a witch worked some wonders (5)
16 Judged worthy of being scolded (5)
18 He may work on the boards of certain companies (5)
19 Bad character in a good book (7)
21 Mark has a bit of a laugh with a sailor (6)
22 Suit to change into (6)
23 Decline to set us free again (6)
25 Bear the burden of a hard-hearted outcry! (5)
26 Clever way to shorten a letter (4)
28 A hit in popular music (3)

EASY

ACROSS

1 Faith (5)
6 Chubby (5)
9 Depict (7)
10 Deduce (5)
11 Fashion (5)
12 Contradict (5)
13 Bird (7)
15 Battle (3)
17 Beers (4)
18 Lure (6)
19 Swoon (5)
20 Deadly (6)
22 Dropped (4)
24 Crack troops (3)
25 Tedium (7)
26 Group of fish (5)
27 Large mammal, in short (5)
28 Calm down (5)
29 Endanger (7)
30 Broad smiles (5)
31 Actions (5)

DOWN

2 Hire (6)
3 Dots (6)
4 Rocky hill (3)
5 Scatter (5)
6 Long-suffering (7)
7 Stringed instrument (4)
8 Madman (6)
12 Trite (5)
13 Prisons (5)
14 US coins (5)
15 Cabled (5)
16 Kingdom (5)
18 Enlist (5)
19 Comprehends (7)
21 Simpler (6)
22 Lame (6)
23 Plundered (6)
25 Bread-maker (5)
26 Rotate (4)
28 Help (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 115

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Float 6, S-and-y 9, Dignity 10, On-I-on 11, R-each 12, Deg.-As 13, For-ever 15, E'er 17, En-I-d 18, Agenda 19, Joyce 20, Eleven 22, Bore 24, Rat 25, Covered 26, Cedar 27, Scrub 28, B-ogus 29,Tear-O-OM 30, Cr-eel 31, Peter.
DOWN: 2, London 3, Ad-O-R-ed 4,Tin 5, A-NG-ER 6, Strange 7, Ayes 8, Duck-Ed 12, De-V-on 13, Fever 14, Rivet 15, Endor 16, Rated 18, Actor 19, Jezebel 21, La-scar 22, Become 23, Refuse 25, C-arry 26, Cut-e 28, Bop.

EASY
ACROSS: 1,Trust 6, Plump 9, Portray 10, Infer 11,Trend 12, Belie 13, Jackdaw 15, War 17, Ales 18, Entice 19, Faint 20, Lethal 22, Fell 24, SAS 25, Boredom 26, Shoal 27, Hippo 28, Abate 29, Imperil 30, Grins 31, Deeds.
DOWN: 2, Rental 3, Specks 4,Tor 5, Strew 6, Patient 7, Lyre 8, Maniac 12, Banal 13, Jails 14, Cents 15, Wired 16, Realm 18, Enrol 19, Fathoms 21, Easier 22, Feeble 23, Looted 25, Baker 26, Spin 28, Aid.

Wknd. FASHION

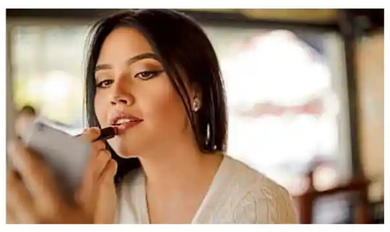
WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

Blending your concealer and foundation using a damp sponge or soft cloth gives your make-up a seamless look

MAKE UP

LONG-LASTING LIPSTICK

Keep your lipstick intact despite sweets and snacks by applying a coat, blotting with tissue, then adding another layer. For extra staying power, dust a little translucent powder through a tissue over your lips. This hack ensures vibrant, smudge-proof colour that lasts through endless festive selfies and mid-party sweet cravings.



DIY NAIL SHINE

If you don't have time for a fresh manicure, you can still revive dull nails instantly. Rub a drop of coconut oil or olive oil into each nail and buff gently. This quick trick adds a natural shine, softens cuticles and makes even chipped nail polish look more polished and party-ready in minutes.

Threads of tradition

Festive fashion today reflects the spirit of India - rooted in tradition, yet ever-evolving and not afraid to reinvent, writes Prasad Bidapa

Style File

Dasara is more than a festival - it is a vibrant expression of culture, and it is beautifully reflected in its fashion. For both men and women, festive dressing becomes a way to celebrate India's extraordinary heritage of textiles and crafts, while also embracing new currents in style and self-expression.

Festive traditions have long been a showcase for Indian weaves. Women continue to favour opulent silks such as Mysuru Silk, Banarasi and Kanjeevaram sarees, while men gravitate towards raw silk or jacquard fabrics for their kurtas and sherwanis. Increasingly, there is also a conscious shift towards natural fibres like khadi, underscoring a move to sustainable, handcrafted elegance that honours both tradition and the environment.

Textile traditions remain central to festive attire. Bandhini and Leheriya from Rajasthan, with their dazzling tie-and-dye patterns, add a riot of colour, while block prints from Sanganer in Rajasthan or Ajrakh from Gujarat infuse garments with intricate, storytelling motifs. These age-old crafts carry forward regional identities, even as they adapt to contemporary tastes.

No Indian festive wardrobe is complete without embellishment. Each region brings forth its own legacy of embroidery and handwork. Zardozi, with its rich metallic threads, lends garments a royal touch, while the mirror work of Gujarat adds a playful sparkle under festive lights. Chikankari from Lucknow, with its delicate finesse, offers a subtle charm that appeals to those who like understated elegance. Whether for men or women, these artisanal details elevate garments from the ordinary into wearable art.

One of the most exciting evolutions in festive fashion is the softening of gender distinctions. Colour palettes have become more fluid, with both men and women embracing fiery reds, royal blues, saffron and marigold - shades once considered traditionally gendered. Men are experimenting with floral prints and embroidered detailing in their kurtas, while women are pairing sarees or lehengas with structured jackets. This new spirit of dressing reflects a broader cultural movement - fashion as a space for individual expression that transcends convention and celebrates shared heritage.

This blend of tradition and innovation was recently exemplified by Sourav Ganguly, the legendary cricketer, who launched his own line of festive wear for both men and women. His collection pays homage to India's craft traditions while reinterpreting them with a modern sensibility, illustrating how festive fashion today is not only about preserving heritage but also about embracing inclusivity, sustainability and contemporary style.

As Dasara approaches, it is clear that the festival's fashion reflects more than just aesthetics. It embodies the spirit of India itself - rooted in tradition, yet ever-evolving, diverse and unafraid to reinvent.

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FESTIVE TIME

Spread your indulgences through the day. Also, spacing out meals allows your body to digest better and prevents sugar spikes and fatigue

EAT SMART

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

FRUITS AND SALADS

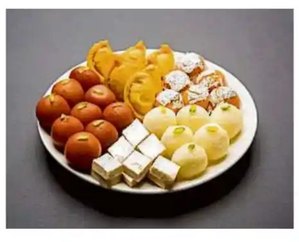
Start your meal with fibre-rich foods like salads or seasonal fruits. This fills you up naturally, leaving less room for heavy, calorie-rich dishes. Fruits like pomegranate, guava and papaya also aid digestion, helping your body process festive feasts more efficiently.

MINDFUL EATING

Avoid mindless snacking while chatting or watching TV. Focus on your food - savour every bite. Eating slowly improves digestion and helps you notice when you're full. This simple habit can prevent over-indulgence and post-meal discomfort, while making you appreciate festive flavours more deeply.

Festive **Treat**

Guilt-free celebrations



Festivals are all about indulgence, but it doesn't have to mean derailing your health goals. With a little mindfulness and smart swaps, you can enjoy traditional favourites without overdoing it. Savour the season while staying light, energised and guilt-free.

PORTION CONTROL

Enjoy your favourite laddoos and snacks, but in moderation. Use smaller plates to trick your mind into feeling full. Take small servings and eat slowly, allowing your body to register fullness. Remember, it's better to taste everything in small amounts than to overload on a single dish.

HYDRATE BEFORE MEALS

Drinking water or herbal tea before a festive meal keeps you hydrated and helps prevent overeating. Warm lemon water or infused detox drinks with mint and ginger are ideal choices. Staying hydrated also balances salt and sugar intake, reducing bloating after festive feasts.

Baked, not fried

Traditional snacks can be baked instead of deep-fried. This cuts down on excess oil while retaining flavour. You can also air-fry festive treats for a lighter alternative without compromising on crunch or taste. A small tweak makes a big difference to your health.

BALANCE SWEETS WITH PROTEIN

Pair festive sweets with a source of protein like nuts or paneer-based dishes. Protein stabilises blood sugar levels and keeps you fuller for longer. If you have two gulab jamuns, balance it with a handful of almonds or a bowl of Greek yogurt to reduce sugar spikes.

Say it with a gift

Gift **Box**

The festive season is a time to spread some cheer with thoughtful gifts. **Jayanthi Madhukar** has some ideas

They say you need no occasion to gift someone you care for but the start of the festive season is the perfect time to shower your love. The upcoming holiday season is a time for socialising, reconnecting with friends and family, and sharing joyful moments that linger. This is the time when a thoughtfully-stocked stash of gifts comes in handy.

Here's a curated guide to festive gifting and a reminder to keep an eye out for seasonal sales and limited-time offers. Embrace the joy of giving with meaningful, well-chosen gifts.

Home and design

Keeping a selection of home-themed gifts at home can be a real time-saver. Consider tasteful decor items such as crystal art objects, scented candles in jars or tins, flower vases, figurines, coasters, napkins, cosy throws and small decorative rugs.

Such gifts not only make for excellent housewarming tokens but can also double as charming take-home ideas for guests at your gatherings. With a bit of planning, these thoughtful additions can elevate the gifting experience manifold.

Tickle the tastebuds

Perhaps the most universally appreciated gift is something edible. A beautifully-wrapped box of sweets, savouries or fine chocolates never goes unappreciated. But there is always room to get creative. Curated hampers with artisanal treats, infused teas, gourmet coffees or even homemade delicacies - these make a lasting impression.

If you're preparing something homemade, be sure to use aesthetically-pleasing packaging like reusable tins or handcrafted boxes which can remain on display in your host's kitchen or dining area long after the last bite is enjoyed.

Crafts and hobby

When your celebration takes place in a public space like a park, restaurant or garden, crafts and hobby-themed gifts are universally enjoyable. Unlike house parties, where gifts are often intended for the host, these gatherings offer the opportunity to surprise all guests.

They could include puzzles, board games, paint-by-number kits, colouring books, elegant stationery, journals, origami sets, bookmarks and even sewing and embroidery kits. Most of these gifts are available at local bookstores, making this a convenient and versatile gift category for both adults and children alike.

Dress up

At a Diwali gathering last year, a friend gifted everyone colourful socks emblazoned with unique taglines. Needless to say, whenever anyone wears the socks, the person is reminded of her. A small gesture, yet memorable – the charm of eye-catching socks, they warm not just the feet, but also the heart.

When selecting clothing for an extended circle - particularly when you're unsure of size - opt for universal pieces like stoles, scarves or shawls. Available in a variety of fabrics and hues, they are suitable for most ages, gender-neutral and elegant as well. For close family, look out for festive discounts on ethnic wear and party sarees which are ideal gifts, especially during a season brimming with social gatherings.

Personalised options can also make for memorable presents. Think bespoke T-shirts with meaningful phrases or motifs, or even custom-designed stoles and dupattas. Accessories offer another versatile gifting route, so consider fashion jewellery, birthstone rings, trendy belt bags, leather cardholders, sleek backpacks, artisan jewellery boxes or even soothing silk sleep masks. Practical and thoughtful, these are sure to impress.

For the gracious host

For party hosts, cooking-related gifts are nice tokens of appreciation. Stylish serving bowls (you can never have too many), exotic spices and brews, baking trays, elegant bottle holders, chopping boards, crystal or glassware - there's no shortage of stylish, practical options.

High-quality dinnerware and tableware are particularly fitting for the festive mood. And for those who revel in culinary exploration and enjoy cooking, a thoughtfully-selected cookbook makes for a treasured gift that lasts well beyond the season.

It's crystal clear!

The festive season is a great excuse to reinvent the interior decor of your living spaces, says **Jayanthi Madhukar**

Glass **Class**

If you've been planning to refresh your home decor, this season offers the perfect opportunity. While flowers remain a timeless staple for festive decoration, consider adding a touch of shimmer with glass and crystal for a more striking, luminous effect. Glass and crystal are classic accessories that go well with any theme.

Here are some ideas to help you elevate your home interiors this season:

Catch-the-light crystals

Not many materials play with light as beautifully as cut crystal. The deep, intricate patterns on crystal objects d'art refract sunlight and artificial light alike, scattering delicate, rainbow-like reflections across a room. The goal is to create dynamic visual interest - an ever-changing display that adds a magical quality to your space.

Crystal bowls are particularly versatile. Fill smaller ones with glass pebbles, potpourri or seasonal blooms and place them on side tables, mantelpieces or eye-level shelves. Crystal jars can serve a similar function - and double up as storage for sweets or wrapped treats during gatherings. A large crystal bowl makes a dramatic dining table centrepiece. Fill it with fresh fruit and flowers for a natural look, or try tinsel balls, pine cones or ornaments for a more festive twist.

Crystal vases, with their sturdy frames and elegant shapes, are ideal for large, lavish bouquets. And don't forget those vintage crystal decanters - they lend a sense of grandeur to any drinks station during a party.

Mirrored effect

Mirrors pair beautifully with crystal and glass. Placing crystal or glass objects near a mirror not only amplifies the light play but also creates a sense of depth and space. A mirrored tray with crystal candleholders or a glass vase filled with fresh blooms can become a striking vignette for a sideboard or coffee table.

Impact of textures

Balance the glossy finish of glass and the intricate sparkle of crystal with complementary textures. You could use velvet runners under glass decor pieces, natural linen or jute mats to ground crystal vases or metallics like gold, brass or chrome for contrast and a touch of opulence.

Grace of glass

Glass brings with it a unique kind of beauty – clean, contemporary and quietly sophisticated. Its versatility allows it to be used across furniture, lighting and ornamental accessories. A glass lamp, for instance, adds understated elegance while providing soft illumination. A glass coffee table becomes both functional and aesthetic anchor in a living space.

Then there is the artistry of handblown glass. These unique, sculptural pieces can act as focal points, even when used sparingly. Coloured glass objects - think bowls, vases and bells - infuse energy and brightness, particularly when displayed in open, well-lit spaces.

Stained glass has seen a revival in contemporary interiors. Once confined to windows and panels, it is now turning up in lampshades, pendant lights and even as freestanding decorative pieces. Hanging a few small stained glass panels near a sunny window will create a mesmerising light effect, turning an ordinary corner into a work of art.

Flowy silhouettes for the season

Jayanthi Madhukar has some tips to help you pump up your style quotient

How do you pump up your style quotient without discomfort in humid conditions? Go for flowy silhouettes in cotton, linen or mulmul – that's the secret. Top on that list are co-ord sets which are back in trend. So, if you have never tried this outfit here's a chance to give it a look. Relaxed monochrome co-ord sets are great and offer a lot of comfort. Add some accessories such as a smart hat or a purse to elevate the look of the outfit.

Oversized cotton shirts paired with linen or chino (for men) shorts are fashionable and will help you stay cool. Consider loose high-waisted linen pants or culottes with cotton fitted tops or shirts for this season.

Pair wrap skirts with crochet tops to send out a high fashion statement. And finally, flowy cotton dresses with airy silhouettes will make the fashion meter buzz for its high style quotient. A rule you need to follow in this season of breezy looks - invest in good quality organic cotton to feel cool and rich.

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, BIKASH TELI, R/o Vill-No.1, Hatipukhuri, Longpotia, Charaideo, Assam-785692, have changed my name to GUNESHWAR TELI & my D.O.B.is wrongly mentioned as 02.09.1983, correct is 31.12.1982, affidavit dated 18.09.2025, Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Michelle Anne Samuel D/o Sri. Harold Arun Samuel and W/o Sri. Benny Mohan, R/at no.514, 4th C Cross, 2nd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043, have changed my name from Michelle Anne Samuel to **'MICHELLE ANNE BENNY'** vide affidavit dated 18.09.2025 sworn before notary P.N.Nagesha, Bengaluru.

I, KANNEGANTI SRI LAKSHMI APARNA Residing at Flat No: 237, Wing-5, Sai Silicon City, Nagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066 have changed my Name to KANNEGANTI APARNA, vide Affidavit dated 19-09-2025 sworn before Notary Veena. J Bangalore.

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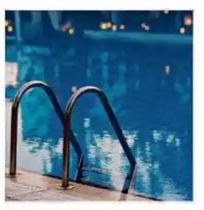
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